

Wheelchair rugby

Wheelchair rugby is the only event at the Paralympic Games where tackling using a wheelchair is permitted. The highlight of the sport is the powerful progress in the game, where you'll see wheelchairs falling over from the force of a tackle.

Rules:

Different from regular rugby rules

Each team consists of up to 12 players, 4 of which are on court and can be replaced by players on the bench an unlimited number of times. Matches consist of 4 quarters of 8 minutes and teams compete for the total score across the 4 quarters. The court is the same size as a basketball court and players pass a dedicated round ball or carry it in their lap. In order to score a goal, the player in possession of the ball must cross the goal line with the wheels of his wheelchair.

Classification:

Athletes with impairment in four limbs are eligible for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. They are divided into 7 classes according to the degree of impairment, with the division made in steps of 0.5. The players on court can have a maximum total of 8 points. However, 0.5 points are added for each female player included, which means the total points may exceed 8.

Column:

Pay attention to the careful strategy of each team!

Wheelchair tackles are definitely a highlight of the sport as this is the only wheelchair sport in which such tackles are permitted by the rules. Nevertheless, it is a careful strategy that you should pay attention to. Athletes work as a team to cross the goal line by aggressively tackling their opponents to block their attack as well as interrupting the path of an approaching opponent player by using their wheelchairs to create a path for the high pointer. Speedy ball movements and time management are also important parts of the game. The Japanese team, who won the gold medal at the World Championships 2018, are expected to go high at the Tokyo 2020 Games.

Trivia:

Wheelchair rugby uses a special ball that is based on a volleyball but with a less slippery surface.

Venue:

At the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, wheelchair rugby will be held at Yoyogi National Stadium.