

Wheelchair and Para-Ambulatory Track & Field

Definition:

Wheelchair and Para-ambulatory track and field competition is open to male and female athletes with physical disabilities such as dwarfism, amputation/limb loss, blindness/visual impairment, spinal cord injury/wheelchair-users and cerebral palsy/brain injury/stroke.

General Eligibility:

An ambulatory Para-athlete must have a permanent orthopedic, neuromuscular, visual, or other physical disability. Permanent orthopedic impairment and/or visual impairment shall be verified by a licensed physician and maintained on permanent file at the school. Additionally, similar requirements exist for wheelchair Para-athletes.

All high school students with a permanent, physical disability may be eligible to participate on their school's track and field team.

Students who participate must meet all AHSAA eligibility requirements. Students shall be members of the school's track and field team and shall have the opportunity to compete at the school's regular season meets (regardless of the number of adapted competitors).

The athletes must compete in their school's team uniform.

Each school must complete and submit a Para-Ambulatory Track and Field Athlete Declaration form.

Divisions:

- Two divisions:

Male
Female

Events:

	<u>Para-ambulatory</u>	<u>Wheelchair</u>
Track:	100, 200, 400	Track: 100, 200, 400
Field:	Shot, Javelin, Discus	Field: Shot, Javelin (club) Discus

- No preliminary rounds.
- Athletes qualify for state by competing in sectionals and must meet standards. Maximum number to qualify per class (division) shall not exceed the number of qualifiers allowed for able-bodied athletes (9).
- Number of events allowed: same as able-bodied (4).

Standards:

Athletes will compete against standards as set by the Wheelchair Track and Field USA (WTFUSA) as recognized by Wheelchair Ambulatory Sports USA (WASUSA). Standards to be met by each disability classification may be found at:

http://www.wasusa.org/WTFUSA/TRACK_Standards_6_16_14_V4.pdf

http://www.wasusa.org/WTFUSA/FIELD_Standards_Juniors_4_24_14_V4.pdf

Information and regulations for throwing frames for wheelchair athletes may be found at the link listed below:

http://www.wasusa.org/WTFUSA/Seated%20Throws_Q&A_FOR%20WEB_4_11_14_V4.pdf

Points:

Points are awarded if standards are met. Points may be counted with team toward total points. Points awarded are based on the number of wheelchair or para-ambulatory athletes that meet standards:

1 athlete = 1 point

2 athletes = 2 points for 1st

1 point for 2nd

3 athletes = 3 points for 1st

2 points for 2nd

1 point for 3rd

This policy will need to be evaluated annually as the number of para-ambulatory athletes' increases.