



**National Wheelchair Basketball Association  
Junior Division Rules and Procedures**

**Amended Beginning 2025-2026 Season**

# Table of Contents

Article I.	Purposes.....	4
Article II.	Membership .....	4
Section 2.01	Eligibility for Membership .....	4
Article III.	Organization .....	7
Section 3.01	Executive Committee .....	7
Article IV.	Meetings .....	10
Section 4.01	Annual Meeting .....	10
Section 4.02	Voting Privileges .....	10
Article V.	National Junior Wheelchair Basketball Tournament .....	11
Section 5.01	National Tournaments .....	11
Section 5.02	Eligibility, Qualification .....	11
Section 5.03	Conferences.....	12
Section 5.04	Structure .....	12
Article VI.	Regional, Conference, and Other Tournaments .....	13
Section 6.01	National Tournament Bids.....	13
Section 6.02	Eligibility .....	13
Section 6.03	Sanctioning Fees .....	13
Section 6.04	Submission of Results.....	13
Section 6.05	Tournament Structure .....	13
Section 6.06	Regional Tournament Bid Dates .....	13
Article VII.	Rules and Procedures Amendments .....	14
Section 7.01	Proposed Amendment Due Date.....	14
Section 7.02	Notification of Proposed Amendments .....	14
Section 7.03	Procedure to Amend Rules and Procedures .....	14
Section 7.04	Executive Committee Proposed Amendments .....	14
Section 7.05	New Rules and Procedures Amendment Effective Date .....	14
Article VIII.	U.S. Representation in International Competition .....	14
Section 8.01	Selection of U.S. Teams.....	14
Article IX.	Executive Regulations of the NWBA Junior Division .....	15
Section 9.01	Coordination of the annual Junior Division of the NWBT.....	15
Section 9.02	NWBA High School All-Academic Team .....	17
	Junior Division Minimal Disability Certification Form .....	18
	Junior Division Playing Rules.....	19
	Junior Division Classification .....	20

# NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION JUNIOR DIVISION

(First rules were adopted as Bylaws on April 16, 1994, Crystal Lake, IL prior to merging into the NWBA)

## Article I. Purposes

The purposes of the Junior Division of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association are:

- 1) To promulgate and develop junior wheelchair basketball clubs and players.
- 2) To protect the rights of junior clubs and junior players within the constitution, bylaws, and executive regulations of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association.
- 3) To coordinate the efforts of member clubs for the benefit of junior wheelchair basketball and to encourage the formation of new teams.
- 4) To advocate for junior clubs and players fairly and ethically.
- 5) To serve the mission of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association.

## Article II. Membership

### Section 2.01 Eligibility for Membership

1. Team Eligibility
  - a. Any National Wheelchair Basketball Association junior club which only rosters junior players is eligible for membership in this division.
2. Individual Player Eligibility
  - a. Any athlete age 21 years or under as of September 1<sup>st</sup> <sup>1</sup>, may be eligible under the following conditions
    - i. Junior players shall have an eligibility period of four years from the time they enter 9th grade, or the season of their 15th birthday, whichever is first, and
    - ii. Once a season begins, each rostered player will have used one year of eligibility, and
    - iii. Athletes may petition the Junior Division Executive Committee for one additional year of eligibility due to circumstances beyond their control related to their disabilities.
    - iv. Any athlete age 19 and above on September 1<sup>st</sup> <sup>2</sup>, **who still has eligibility**, must be currently enrolled in a registered, state high school documented program of the state in which (s)he resides and/or attends school. (Proof will be required)
  - b. For a player to be eligible for play within the Junior Division, the player must meet the eligibility criteria in NWBA Policies and Procedures Article One, Section 1.
  - c. Have a Junior Division Minimal Disability Certification Form completed by Physician or NWBA Certified Classifier on file with the Junior Division Commissioner and NWBA

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<sup>1</sup> Date changed from September 30<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup> –April 2025

<sup>2</sup> Date changed from September 30<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup> –April 2025

front office. The Junior Division Minimal Disability Certification Form is available on the NWBA website.

- d. Eligible players are required to play with the nearest geographical, age-appropriate team, with the following exceptions.
  - i. The player has moved away from the original team and wants to finish his/her last year of Junior Division eligibility with the original team (similar to a grandfather clause).
    1. Player shall petition the Executive Committee for waiver.
    2. Petition must be submitted to the Commissioner on or before the NWBA Registration Deadline or within 15 days of a move if during the season.
    3. Players may not change teams after the January 15 deadline for finalizing rosters. No petitions will be honored after rosters are finalized.
  - ii. In rare instances, a player may petition the Junior Division Executive Committee to play for a team other than his/her nearest geographical team. Petitions will only be considered if:
    1. petition is received on or before January 15. (no exceptions)
    2. the transfer is significantly in the benefit of the player.
    3. the transfer will have minimal impact on either team.
    4. the transfer is approved by the conference commissioner.
  - iii. The Executive Committee shall have final jurisdiction on all petitions.
  - iv. Players with a petition pending shall not play for the new team until transfer is approved and received by the petitioner. Any game played with the new team before approval shall be deemed a forfeit.
  - v. The Executive Committee will render its decision within 15 days of receipt of petition. Decisions will be communicated to the player or their family by the Division Commissioner.
  - vi. For those programs sponsoring two varsity-level teams, if a player has a season-ending event (health or otherwise) and will play no further games or attend Nationals as a player, the program would be allowed to add a single-person roster change for a replacement player.<sup>1</sup>
  - vii. For those programs sponsoring two varsity-level teams, if both teams are registered for Nationals but only one team receives an invitation, the two varsity teams would be allowed to 'collapse' to a single varsity team for purposes of attending Nationals.<sup>2</sup>
- e. A Prep eligible player may be rostered with a varsity level team provided it is the nearest geographical varsity level team.
- f. A player is eligible for Prep play if they meet the following requirements:
  - i. Males **13** years or under as of September 1<sup>st</sup><sup>3</sup>
  - ii. Females **13** years or under as of September 1<sup>st</sup><sup>4</sup>
- g. All roster additions as well as final post season rosters must be submitted to the Commissioner no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - i. Exception: A new player that meets the eligibility requirements for the Junior Division may be added to a roster at any point during the season provided that player has never been rostered on any NWBA team in the past.  
Teams may not roster the same player on two varsity teams in the same tournament at

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<sup>1</sup> Added May 14, 2025

<sup>2</sup> Added May 14, 2025

<sup>3</sup> Date changed from September 30<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup> – April 2022

<sup>4</sup> Date changed from September 30<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup> – April 2022

any time. Coaches/players must choose which team the player will play for, and that player can only play for the one varsity team that he/she is rostered for in that event. This means teams that split their rosters for a tournament cannot have players on both teams and cannot change their roster decision after submitting it to the tournament organizers.

- h. An NWBA Official Player Application and Certification Form is not utilized for Junior Division play.

### 3. Coach and Staff Eligibility

#### a. NWBA Junior Division Staff Screening Policy

Anyone listed on a Junior or Prep Division roster must be in compliance with the NWBA Board of Directors National Screening Policy. This is an athlete safety rule and must be enforced by teams and tournament directors. This policy requires:

- i. All coaches and volunteers who work with players in the Junior Division must be listed on their roster and be screened through the NWBA contracted company (NCSI at the time of this writing) by the current process as described on the NWBA website.
- ii. Screening is good for two seasons and must be renewed before continuing work with a team.
- iii. Any person paid or volunteer, that receives a screening red flag is immediately ineligible to be involved in any way with the NWBA junior players or teams. The Team Leader and/or Head Coach will be notified that the red-flagged person must be dismissed.
- iv. If the individual believes that the red flag is a mistake, it is the responsibility of the individual to contact NCSI directly to correct the situation. Other team personnel or NWBA representative are not to be involved with details of or contesting the confidential screening.
- v. To be reinstated, the person must resubmit to screening and secure a green rating from NCSI.

**Please note:** Failure to list all key volunteers and coaches on Junior Rosters and have them screened or allowing a red flagged volunteer to continue with the team / program will result in the immediate dismissal of the coaches and team from the NWBA. Program alumni and friends cannot be on the bench or work with the team during tournaments without being rostered as coaches and passing screening. The NWBA National Office does not see the results of the screenings, only the confirmation of green or red.

## Article III. Organization

### Section 3.01 Executive Committee

The establishment and direction of the general policy of the division in the interim between annual meetings is committed to an Executive Committee of six members elected at the Division's Annual Meeting as prescribed in this article.

- 1) The Executive Committee shall be constituted as follows:
  - a) President
  - b) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President
  - c) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President
  - d) Secretary
  - e) Athlete Representative (1)<sup>5</sup>
  - f) Athlete Representative (2)<sup>6</sup>
- 2) Any individual, regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, and physical or mental disability, may be eligible for office in the Junior Division.
- 3) For the transaction of business, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the executive committee. The executive committee shall meet as follows:
  - a) prior to the business sessions of the annual meeting,
  - b) at such other times as, the President may direct.
- 4) The Executive Committee shall:
  - a) Transact the business and administer the affairs of the Division in accordance with the policies of the Association and Division.
  - b) Work with the Junior Division Commissioner to adhere to the budget provided by the NWBA executive committee.
  - c) Report its proceedings to the business section of the annual meeting.
  - d) Review the proposed Association legislation for its impact on the Division and make recommendations at annual meeting.
  - e) Name a replacement for any vacancy on the Executive Committee to fulfill the obligation of that office for the remaining part of the term of the vacated office.
- 5) The Division's Executive Committee may transact part of its business by correspondence, including electronic media, as it may deem advisable.
- 6) Election of the Division's Executive Committee
  - a) Each officer shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. Terms shall be staggered as follows:
    - i) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Secretary will be elected in the same year beginning in 2017, 2020, 2023, etc.
    - ii) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and President will be elected in the same year beginning in 2019, 2022, 2025, etc.
    - iii) Athlete Representative (1) will be selected and appointed beginning in 2022, 2025, etc.
    - iv) Athlete Representative (2) will be selected and appointed beginning in 2023, 2026, 2029, etc.
    - v) Committee members will assume elected roles on July 1<sup>st</sup> or immediately following their election, whichever is later. Member appointed to replace an officer who departs before the end of their term shall serve the remainder of the elected term and not change the

<sup>5</sup> Changed "At Large Member" to "Athlete Representative" - April 2022

<sup>6</sup> Added additional "Athlete Representative" - April 2022

staggered schedule.

## 7) Duties of the Officers

- a) The President shall:
  - i) Preside at the meetings of the Division and the Division's Executive Committee.
  - ii) Provide ongoing direction for the Junior Division.
- b) The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall perform duties as the President may request, including:
  - i) In the absence of the President, taking the place of the president and serving those duties.
  - ii) Coordinating activities/camps with the College Division.
- c) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President shall perform duties as the President may request, including:
  - i) Developing grass roots efforts for:
    - (1) Organization of varsity and prep banquet at the NWBT
    - (2) Talent Identification and recruitment of new junior players
    - (3) League Exposure
- d) The Secretary shall perform the duties as the President may request, including:
  - i) Keeping minutes and records of all meetings of the division and the division's Executive Committee.
  - ii) Reporting to the division the annual meeting minutes of the previous year and the NJWBT.
  - iii) Collecting all proposed amendments to Procedures and Policies prior to February 15<sup>th</sup> and sending copies to the membership no later than March 1<sup>st</sup> preceding the annual meeting.
  - iv) Managing the Courage Center, Bob Szyman, Dave Ruback, Ed Owen, and all other Awards
    - (1) Send Nomination Forms to the body and collect the names of nominees
    - (2) With input from the Executive Committee, select committee(s) to evaluate and select the winner of the awards that will be presented at the NJWBT
- e) The Athlete Representative(s) shall serve the board in ways requested by the President and may substitute for other members as needed. Both shall advocate the interests of athletes—further responsibilities outlined in Article 11 of the NWBA Bylaws.<sup>7</sup>
- f) The Commissioner of the Junior Division is appointed to the office by the Commissioner upon the recommendation of the Division. The Commissioner of the NWBA for the Junior Division serves and fulfills the duties and the responsibilities of the Commissioner outlined in Article IV of the NWBA Bylaws. The Commissioner is a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

## 8) Termination of Office

- a) Any officer may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of the delegates at a division's annual meeting.
- b) Charges of misconduct or ineffective performance of duty must be presented as described in Article VI - Organization, Section 2(d) of the NWBA Bylaws.

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<sup>7</sup> Changed wording to include "Athlete Representatives" and added responsibilities – April 2022

- i) Member appointed to replace an officer who departs before the end of their term shall serve the remainder of the elected term and not change the staggered schedule.

## 9) Duties of the Officers

- a) The President shall:
  - i) Preside at the meetings of the Division and the Division's Executive Committee.
  - ii) Provide ongoing direction for the Junior Division.
- b) The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall perform duties as the President may request, including:
  - i) In the absence of the President, taking the place of the president and serving those duties.
  - ii) Coordinating activities/camps with the College Division.
- c) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President shall perform duties as the President may request, including:
  - i) Developing grass roots efforts for:
    - (1) Organization of varsity and prep banquet at the NWBT
    - (2) Talent Identification and recruitment of new junior players
    - (3) League Exposure
- d) The Secretary shall perform the duties as the President may request, including:
  - i) Keeping minutes and records of all meetings of the division and the division's Executive Committee.
  - ii) Reporting to the division the annual meeting minutes of the previous year and the NJWBT.
  - iii) Collecting all proposed amendments to Procedures and Policies prior to February 15<sup>th</sup> and sending copies to the membership no later than March 1<sup>st</sup> preceding the annual meeting.
  - iv) Managing the Courage Center, Bob Szyman, Dave Ruback, Ed Owen, and all other Awards
    - (1) Send Nomination Forms to the body and collect the names of nominees
    - (2) With input from the Executive Committee, select committee(s) to evaluate and select the winner of the awards that will be presented at the NJWBT
- e) The Member At Large Athlete Representative and Athlete Representative shall serve the board in ways requested by the President and may substitute for other members as needed. Both shall advocate the interests of athletes—further responsibilities outlined in Article 11 of the NWBA Bylaws.
- f) The Commissioner of the Junior Division is appointed to the office by the Commissioner upon the recommendation of the Division. The Commissioner of the NWBA for the Junior Division serves and fulfills the duties and the responsibilities of the Commissioner outlined in Article IV of the NWBA Bylaws. The Commissioner is a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

## 10) Termination of Office

- a) Any officer may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of the delegates at a division's annual meeting.
- b) Charges of misconduct or ineffective performance of duty must be presented as described in Article VI - Organization, Section 2(d) of the NWBA Bylaws.

## **Article IV. Meetings**

### **Section 4.01 Annual Meeting**

Each year there will be an annual meeting of the Junior Division. The meeting will be scheduled by the NWBA and normally will be held in conjunction with the Association's National Junior Wheelchair Basketball Tournament (NJWBT). If the meeting does not coincide with the NJWBT it will be held afterwards, but before July 15<sup>th</sup>. In extraordinary circumstances, the NWBA Board may direct the Division to hold the Annual Meeting later, but still before the start of a new season. The annual meeting will include accommodation for remote participation and secure voting for remote participants who attend the entire meeting. If needed and agreed to by the Junior Division Executive Board, the NWBA may opt to hold the Junior Division Annual Meeting by video conference.

### **Section 4.02 Voting Privileges**

- 1) Each registered team shall be entitled to one (1) vote and represented by one or two accredited delegates (rostered coaches or team representatives).
- 2) Member teams are authorized to send visiting delegates who shall be without voting power and shall not actively participate in the business proceedings of the Association. Visiting delegates should be identified as such at the beginning of the meeting.
- 3) The certification and voting of delegates shall be conducted as follows:
  - a) Delegates shall be certified to the Secretary as entitled to represent the member team in question by the proper executive officers of their teams.
  - b) No delegate shall represent a member team unless he or she is actually identified with such member team.
  - c) Whenever the Division votes by roll call, either written or via voice, on any questions, on demand of any delegate, the names of the delegates as they vote shall be checked by the Secretary in order to verify the authority of the voter.
  - d) Voting by proxy is not allowed.
  - e) Since rule change proposals are debated and often modified during the Annual Meeting, only members in attendance either in person or by video conference connection may vote on rule change proposals. Video conference attendees will vote by method provided and administered by the NWBA.
  - f) Absentee voting for Executive Committee positions may be carried out through absentee balloting methods provided and administered by the NWBA. Absentee ballots will be provided to all members of the Executive Committee for verification.

## Article V. National Junior Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

### Section 5.01 National Tournaments

- 1) The Junior Division shall sanction three national tournaments.
  - a. National Varsity Wheelchair Basketball Tournament (NVWBT)
  - b. National Varsity Invitational Wheelchair Basketball Tournament (NVIWBT)
  - c. National Prep Wheelchair Basketball Tournament (NPWBT)

### Section 5.02 Eligibility, Qualification

- 1) To be eligible for a National Tournament, a team must be in good standing with the NWBA and play a **minimum of TEN (10) games for Junior Division Varsity** and **EIGHT (8) games for Junior Prep Division**.
  - a. **Varsity:** Games against all other NWBA divisions, other than the PREP Division, will count toward the minimum.
  - b. Each team must:
    - i. Complete at least six (6) of their ten (10) minimum games against conference opponents  
**PREP:** Games against all other NWBA divisions will count toward the minimum.
  - c. Each Varsity & Prep team must compete in their Conference Championship.
  - e. All minimum game requirements must be completed at least four (4) weeks prior to the beginning of the National Tournaments.
    - i. If invitation acceptance deadlines are prior to the minimum games played to qualify, those games (and dates) must be included on the application for post season play.
- 2) To receive a bid for the National Varsity Tournament (NVWBT) or National Varsity Invitational Tournament (NVIWBT), a team must play the minimum number of games AND meet the requirements of the guidelines per Article VI, Section 1 by competing in at least one of the following:
  - a. A Conference Championship which precedes the National Tournament by at least four weeks. Executive Committee may waive four-week requirement if a Conference presents compelling reasons for scheduling closer to the National Tournament.
  - b. A Regional Qualifying Tournament which precedes the National Tournament by at least four weeks.
  - c. Qualified Teams
    - a. The Junior Division portion of the NWBT is an invitational tournament with seeds based on rankings. Seeding may be adjusted to avoid intraconference games in the first round. Varsity teams that receive a bid will be placed in the National Varsity Tournament (NVWBT) or National Varsity Invitational Tournament (NVIWBT) based off their FINAL rankings of the season.
      - i. Varsity Teams ranked 1-16 will play in the NVWBT
      - ii. Varsity Teams ranked 17-32 will play in the NVIWBT

- iii. Prep Teams will be selected from the top 16 teams in the Prep Division rankings
    - iv. If a team does not accept their bid for post season play, invitations will be sent to the next team, in order of ranking, until the tournaments are filled.
  - b. Final rankings will be submitted to the NWBA to be posted on nwba.org on or before three weeks prior to the National Tournament.
    - i. The Final rankings will be used for invitations to the National Tournaments. The final rankings may not be the final seeding the National Tournaments. Game results at least two weeks prior to the National Tournaments may be considered for final seeding.
- 3) Teams wishing to participate in one of the National Tournaments must apply to attend.
  - a. Application form will be posted on nwba.org
  - b. Applications will be due to the Junior Division Commissioner by a date announced by the NWBA.
    - i. Submitting an application does not guarantee an invitation to any of the tournaments. Tournament selection will be by ranking and automatic bids.

### **Section 5.03      Conferences**

- 1) \*Removed<sup>8</sup>
- 2) Conferences will consist of a minimum of five (5) teams
- 3) Each Conference shall receive an automatic bid for a National Tournament. The bid shall be awarded according to Article V, Section 5.02 .

### **Section 5.04      Structure**

- 1) The National Tournament structure is based on a sixteen (16) team, single elimination tournament which determines first through sixteenth places.
- 2) National Tournaments for the Junior Division shall avoid conflicts with other national championships for adaptive sports whenever possible.
- 3) The National Varsity Invitational Wheelchair Basketball Tournament will not be classified as a “National Championship” tournament.
- 4) Teams participating in the National Tournament are guaranteed four games unless the brackets do not fill or an opponent forfeits.

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<sup>8</sup> Removed Section May 14, 2025

## **Article VI. Regional, Conference, and Other Tournaments**

### **Section 6.01 National Tournament Bids**

- 1) Each Conference Tournament shall receive one automatic bid to a National Tournament. Automatic bids will also be awarded through Regional Qualifying Tournaments. Regional Qualifying Tournaments will receive one or two qualifying bids per the following criteria: Five (5) Teams or less = 1 Bid  
Six (6) Teams or more = 2 bids
- 2) Remaining qualifying bids will be awarded at the discretion of the Executive Committee to teams that meets all qualifying criteria. The total number of qualifying teams will not exceed sixteen. The number of Regional Qualifying Tournaments will be adjusted relative to the number of conferences in order to insure a sixteen-team field for a National Tournament.

### **Section 6.02 Eligibility**

- 1) Only teams in good standing with the NWBA may qualify for a National Tournament in a Qualifying Regional or Conference Championship Tournament.

### **Section 6.03 Sanctioning Fees**

- 1) Qualifying Regional and Conference Championship Tournaments may only include teams in good standing with the NWBA and must be conducted in accordance with the NWBA Junior Division playing rules.
- 2) Hosts of National Qualifying Tournaments must pay a \$75 sanctioning fee to the NWBA Junior Division.

### **Section 6.04 Submission of Results**

- 1) Tournament directors are responsible for submitting results of the tournament to the Division's Commissioner and the NWBA Commissioner within THREE (3) days of the last day of the tournament. Scores MUST be submitted on the NWBA scoreboard AND sent by email to the Commissioner, Secretary, Ranking Committee, and participating Team Representatives.

### **Section 6.05 Tournament Structure**

- 1) Qualifying Regional and Conference Championship Tournament structure must provide for a final standing with ranking of all entered teams based on games outcomes.

### **Section 6.06 Regional Tournament Bid Dates**

- 1) Bids for Qualifying Regional Tournaments shall be completed and emailed (or postmarked) to the President of the Junior Division Executive Committee no later than August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Article VII. Rules and Procedures Amendments**

### **Section 7.01 Proposed Amendment Due Date**

These Rules and Procedures may be amended at any annual meeting by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Division by February 15 preceding the annual meeting.

### **Section 7.02 Notification of Proposed Amendments**

The Secretary shall email a copy of the proposed amendment to all members of the Division not later than March 1 or four weeks prior, whichever is later, to the annual meeting.

### **Section 7.03 Procedure to Amend Rules and Procedures**

A proposed amendment to the Rules and Procedures may itself be amended or modified at an annual meeting by a majority vote of the members present provided that the modification to the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing to the Secretary prior to one o'clock in the afternoon on the day preceding the final business session.

### **Section 7.04 Executive Committee Proposed Amendments**

The Executive Committee may propose amendments to amendments during the Annual Meeting without the procedural requirements described by Article VII, Section 7.03, provided that in each instance, the proposed modification is approved by majority vote of the Executive Committee.

### **Section 7.05 New Rules and Procedures Amendment Effective Date**

Unless specified in the amendment itself, amendments shall become effective on the first day of September following adoption by the annual meeting.

## **Article VIII. U.S. Representation in International Competition**

### **Section 8.01 Selection of U.S. Teams**

The selection of a Junior team to represent the U.S. in international wheelchair basketball competition is the responsibility of the NWBA International Selection Committee and will be conducted under their rules and regulations.

## **Article IX. Executive Regulations of the NWBA Junior Division**

### **Section 9.01 Coordination of the annual Junior Division of the NWBT**

#### **(a) Responsibilities for the National Tournament**

- 1) Advise NWBA staff and board on tournament requirements and Junior Division specifics.
- 2) Promote the tournament to the best of its ability.
- 3) Provide round trip travel, lodging and meals for an official appointed by the Commissioner of the Junior Division to serve as Head Referee, Assignor and Assessor for the tournament.
- 4) Provide lodging and meals for members of the Junior Division Executive Committee and the Junior Division Commissioner who are not present with a competing team
- 5) Arrange for suitable and adequate meeting space for the conduct of the annual Junior Division meeting.
- 6) Plan Varsity and Prep Banquets including working with NWBA and local facility for room space and catering.
- 7) Arrange for the purchase and engraving of the following trophies and awards at tournament expense:
  - a) Approved National Championship Trophy, QTY (1)
  - b) Individual Awards to National Champions, QTY (15)
  - c) 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team Trophy, QTY (1)
  - d) Individual Awards for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, QTY (15)
  - e) 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team Trophy, QTY (1)
  - f) Individual Awards for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, QTY (15)
  - g) Neal Radbel Award for Sportsmanship, QTY (1)
  - h) Most Valuable Player Award, QTY (1)
  - k) First Team All-National Tournament, QTY (5)
  - l) Second Team All-National Tournament, QTY (5)
  - m) Player of the Game for the Championship Game QTY (1)
- 8) Coordinate tournament program information with NWBA. Program information shall contain a history of the NWBA, the records of past NJWBTs, Junior Division Standings for the immediate past season and other information pertinent to wheelchair basketball and wheelchair sports, which would have general interest and educational value.
- 9) Arrange for an awards ceremony at the conclusion of the National Championship game for the presentation of the tournament trophies.

#### **(b) Responsibilities of Team Qualifying for the National Tournament**

The responsibilities of all teams qualifying for the national tournament shall be to:

- 1) Furnish the sponsor, at the time of qualification for the National Tournament, a team photograph. When possible, short biographies of players and photographs of outstanding players along with any additional materials suitable for promotion of the tournament may also be provided.

- 2) Furnish the NWBA with a roster of all team personnel planning to attend the tournament, indicating the numbers in wheelchairs, the number that are ambulatory or semi-ambulatory and whether any specific arrangements need to be made in housing accommodations or meals.
- 3) Furnish the NWBA with a team roster indicating team players, positions, jersey numbers and classification.
- 4) Pay the travel, to and from the site of the tournament and housing and meal expense of all team personnel.

**(C) Regional Qualifier, Conference and National Championship All-Tournament Teams, MVP and Player of the Game**

The following process shall be used to name players to the Regional Qualifier, Conference and National Championship All-Tournament teams:

- 1) There is a first and second team. Each team consists of 5 players.
- 2) There is an MVP. The MVP will not be named to either All-Tournament Team.
- 3) Each team must vote for 10 players, i.e. it must have a name for each line on the ballot (10 lines), a Sportsmanship Award and an MVP of the tournament.
  - a) There will be at least one slot for a J-1 player.<sup>1</sup>
  - b) There will be at least one slot for a J-2 player.<sup>2</sup>
  - c) There will be at least one slot for a female player.
- 4) A team may not vote for a player on its own team.
- 5)<sup>3</sup>
- 6)<sup>4</sup>
- 7) The votes will be weighed so that a 1<sup>st</sup> choice receives 10 points, and a 10<sup>th</sup> choice receives 1 point. An MVP choice will receive 11 points.
- 8) The top five (5) vote getters, including the top vote getting Class I, Class II and female players will be named to the First Team
- 9) The top five (5) female vote getters, including the top vote getting Class I or II player will be named to the Female All-Tournament Team.
- 10) Vote getters 6-10, including the Class I, Class II and female with the most votes in places 6-10 will be named to the Second Team.
- 11) The award will be called First Team All-Tournament, Female All-Tournament Team or Second Team All-Tournament.
- 12)<sup>5</sup>
- 13) The Conference Commissioner<sup>6</sup> will provide the ballots and tally sheets for the Conference Championship.
- 14) The Tournament Director will provide the ballots and tally sheets for the Regional Qualifier.

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<sup>1</sup> Changed wording to J-1 May 5, 2023

<sup>2</sup> Changed wording to J-2 May 5, 2023

<sup>3</sup> Removed section 5 May 5, 2023

<sup>4</sup> Removed section 6 May 5, 2023

<sup>5</sup> Removed section 12 May 5, 2023

<sup>6</sup> Changed from Director to Commissioner May 5, 2023

15) <sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Removed Section 15 May 5, 2023

## **Section 9.02 NWBA High School All-Academic Team**

- 1) The National Wheelchair Basketball Association Junior Division will present Academic All- American awards every season to student athletes in grades 10-12. The goals of these awards are to promote and recognize academic excellence and preparation for adulthood.
- 2) To further those goals, the Junior Division will also award Academic Achiever awards to student athletes in grades 5-9.
- 3) Awards will be presented during the Junior Division Banquet held at the NWBT. The player's team does not have to participate in the national tournament for him or her to be eligible for this award. Awardees will receive a plaque suitable for holding a 5" x 7" photo of the player. A duplicate plaque will be provided for the athlete's school.
- 4) All-American and Academic-Achiever Awards will be determined by academic record as well as project or essay as determined by reviewers of the award. In order to be eligible for awards, student athletes must have a minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale or equivalent certified by a school official. Athletes may not have a grade lower than a C.
- 5) Applications will be available in the middle of December each year with details available on the NWBA website. Applications will be due approximately three weeks prior to Nationals (March 1).<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Date updated May 5, 2023



## Junior Division Playing Rules

National Wheelchair Basketball Association Junior Division Playing Rules Adopted March 15, 2001, \* Revised 03/15/05, \*\* 03/23/06, \*\*\* 2008, † 2009 \*\*\*\* Adopted 4/19/13

	<b>Varsity</b>	<b>Prep</b>
Age	4 years of eligibility once starting high school or turning 15, whichever comes first. Players who wish to extend their eligibility beyond the four years due to reasons related to their disability need to petition the Executive Committee. No player older than 21 may play in the Junior Division.	13 years or younger as of September 1st.
Basket Height	10'	8-1/2'
Free Throw Line	15'	** 13'
		Regulation lane for 3 sec calls.*** Officials will line up kids for free throws to accommodate for add-on baskets for 8-1/2 foot or baskets that can be lowered.
Ball Size	** Official NWBA 29.5 (Molten BG-4500 Men's Ball)	**** Spalding Rookie Gear Youth Basketball (Molten BGM5X acceptable in sanctioned games)
3-Point	Yes	* Yes
Shot Clock	Follows NCAA Men's Rules 30 Seconds w/ reset to 20 on fouls inside 20 seconds	None
		* Game clock will stop after a made basket with 1 minute left in game.
Periods	20 Minute Halves	8 Minute Quarters. Clock stops on whistles.
Intermission	10 Minutes	1 minute Between Quarters 10 Minutes Between Halves
Overtime	5 Minute Intermission 5 Minute Overtime Period	2 Minute Intermission 2 Minute Overtime Period
Time Outs	NCAA Men's Rules 4 - Full 2 - 30 Second	4 – Full
Jump Ball	NCAA Alternating Possession	NCAA Alternating Possession
Fouls	NCAA - 5	NCAA - 5
Defense	A team with a 20-point lead in the second half may not press. Defense must give offense one chair length beyond the mid-court line before defending the opponents. If the team that is down by 20 or more points begins to press, then both teams may press. †	No press in the backcourt for 10 seconds. If the offensive team calls a timeout in their backcourt, the defense may apply a full court press immediately after the timeout.
Offense*		When a change of possession occurs, the offense cannot prevent the defense from crossing the mid-court line into their defensive positions, i.e., no back picking by an offensive player on a defensive player in the offensive team's backcourt.
Classification and Points	† 8-point Junior Classification AND Completed Minimum Disability Form Required for Every Sanctioned Game	Completed Minimum Disability Form; No Classification Point System
Chair Specifications	NWBA	Chair must be safe for all players on the court. * No Power Chairs.

All other NWBA and NCAA rules as applied to the higher divisions will be applied to the Junior and Prep Divisions.

## Junior Division Classification

NWBA Junior Division teams use a simplified version of classification for all sanctioned Varsity games. Classification is not used for Prep teams.

In the Junior Division point system:

- Each junior athlete is assigned a junior point value of one or two and denoted as “J1” or “J2” respectively.
- Teams of all male players can have a maximum of 8 total points in the game at one time.
- Teams with at least one female in the game may play with a maximum of 9 total points.
- Lineups without a female must have at least two J1 players on the floor.
- Teams may play a maximum of two class 4.0/4.5 players at one time. These players are a subgroup of J2 called J2-4.
- Teams may play with fewer than 8 points on the floor if they choose.

Classification of Junior Division Athletes:

- Each team must have a designated Team Classifier who has passed the free, online course provided by the NWBA and found at: [https://www.coursesites.com/s/ JRTeamReviewer](https://www.coursesites.com/s/JRTeamReviewer). To access the training enter the access code "Juniors".
- Team Classifiers must propose junior classifications for all their players before the first tournament of the season.
- Team Classifiers will observe other teams' players in game situations at tournaments to comment on the proposed classifications. A player's classification must be agreed upon by at least two other teams' classifiers to become final for the season.
- If there is difficulty assigning a classification or if there is disagreement between Junior Team Classifiers about an athlete's class, consult the NWBA Classification Committee to adjudicate the issue.
- Team Classifiers only assign J1 and J2 classes. The NWBA Classification Committee makes determinations of J2-4 subgroups if needed. If a team believes they or any other Junior Division team has more than two J2-4 players, they should request a review by the NWBA Classification Committee to adjudicate the issue.

Basic Aspects of Determining Junior Class:

- Classification is based on function. No medical information or training is required to determine athlete class.
- J1 players encompass IWBFC Classes 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, and 2.5. J1 players are characterized by limited trunk control with limited vertical and forward stability in their sports chairs. They commonly rely on passive stabilization of the trunk.
- J2 players encompass IWBFC Classes 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5. J2 players have a larger volume of action than J1 players. J2 players have active control of their trunk in both the forward and vertical planes.
- Classification centers on trunk stability and volume of action, but upper limb disabilities are also considered. Determination of role of upper-limb disability centers on considering how it affects a player's ability to fairly compete with players of otherwise similar trunk function.
- Lower-limb amputees are classified by type, degree, and residual limb length. Lower-limb amputees who also have upper-limb disabilities may also have their class lowered depending on the impact on function.
- Junior players with certified adult classifications (NWBA or IWBFC) must use those classifications as the basis of their junior class.

Game Management:

- Point totals are kept in the scorebook and monitored by the Official Scorer at the Scorer's Table.
- Coaches on the bench should alert the Scorer's Table of classification violations.
- Game Officials may check the scorebook at any time during play.
- An Administrative Foul is called if a team exceeds the team point limit.
- To help track player classes teams may opt to use a system such as placing different colored tape on the back bar of the chair to distinguish between J1 and J2 players.

