



WIAA Inclusive Division for Cross Country Ambulatory – Wheelchair - Unified



In an effort to better help coaches and administrators identify potential athletes for the WIAA Inclusive Division for Cross Country, the WIAA has adopted the guidelines and athlete classifications from the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), US Paralympic Committee (USATF / USPARATF), Adaptive Track & Field USA (ATFUSA) and Special Olympics (SO).

The Paralympic Ambulatory Division offers sporting opportunities for athletes with physical and/or visual impairments that have at least one of the following 9 eligible impairments:

IMPAIRMENT	EXPLANATION
Impaired Muscle Power	Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles to move or to generate force. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra-or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.
Impaired Passive Range of Movement	Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include arthrogryposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.
Limb Deficiency	Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (for example traumatic amputation), illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).
Short Stature	Athletes with Short Stature have a reduced length in the bones of the upper limbs, lower limbs and/or trunk. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Short Stature include achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta.
Hypertonia	Athletes with Hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.
Ataxia	Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Ataxia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.
Athetosis	Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.
Visual Impairment	Athletes with Vision Impairment have reduced, or no vision caused by damage to the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the brain. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Vision Impairment include retinitis pigmentosa and diabetic retinopathy.

The Paralympic Wheelchair Division offers sporting opportunities for athletes with physical impairments that have at least one of the following 3 eligible impairments:

IMPAIRMENT	EXPLANATION
Limb deficiency	Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (for example traumatic amputation), illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).
Impaired muscle power	Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles to move or to generate force. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra- or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.
Impaired passive range of movement	Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include arthrogryposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.

Accommodations are available to athletes competing in the Paralympic Adapted Division of Track & Field. For us to better advise you on what accommodations your athlete might be entitled to, please register potential athletes early.

The UNIFIED Division offers sporting opportunities for athletes with physical impairments that have the following impairment:

IMPAIRMENT	EXPLANATION
Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD)	Athletes with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD) will compete in the WIAA Unified Division. Examples of these disabilities include Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder; Autism; Apert Syndrome; Fragile X Syndrome; Prader-Willi Syndrome; & Down Syndrome.

If you have a question about if your athlete qualifies as a Unified Athlete, please reach out to WIAA early so we can assist you.