

# WIAA Paralympic - Adapted Division for Track & Field

In an effort to better help coaches and administrators identify potential athletes for the Adapted Division – Track and Field, the WIAA Track Committee has adopted the guidelines and athlete classifications from the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and Adaptive Track & Field USA (ATFUSA).

**The Paralympic Ambulatory Division** offers sporting opportunities for athletes with physical and/or visual impairments that have at least one of the following 7 eligible impairments:

IMPAIRMENT	EXPLANATION
Limb deficiency	<p>Total or partial absence of bones or joints, from birth or as a consequence of trauma (e.g. car accident or amputation) or illness (e.g. bone cancer).</p> <p><i>Athletes in this classification are not required to use blocks – they may crouch, stand, or utilize a 3-point stance with or without blocks. If a prosthesis is used, it must be used while in competition. Athletes are not allowed to hop.</i></p> <p><i>Prosthetics are not required in field events. Athlete may adjust his/her prosthetic during competition but must finish the attempt in the allowed time.</i></p>
Leg length difference	<p>Bone shortening in one leg from birth or trauma.</p> <p><i>Athletes in this classification are not required to use blocks – they may crouch, stand, or utilize a 3-point stance with or without blocks. If a prosthesis is used, it must be used while in competition. Athletes are not allowed to hop.</i></p>
Short stature	<p>Reduced standing height due to abnormal dimensions of bones of upper and lower limbs or trunk, for example due to achondroplasia or growth hormone dysfunction.</p> <p><i>Athletes in this classification are not required to use blocks – they may crouch, stand, or utilize a 3-point stance with or without blocks.</i></p>
Hypertonia	<p>Abnormal increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch, which can result from injury, illness, or a health condition such as cerebral palsy.</p> <p><i>This impairment typically affects the ability to control legs, trunk, arms and/or hand function. Some athletes affected by this impairment may compete in the Wheelchair division. Athletes in this classification are not required to use blocks – they may crouch, stand or utilize a 3-point stance with or without blocks.</i></p>
Ataxia	<p>Lack of coordination of muscle movements due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.</p> <p><i>This impairment typically affects the ability to control legs, trunk, arms and/or hand function. Some athletes affected by this impairment may compete in the Wheelchair division. Athletes in this classification are not required to use blocks – they may crouch, stand or utilize a 3-point stance with or without blocks.</i></p>
Athetosis	<p>Generally characterized by unbalanced, uncontrolled movements and difficulty in maintaining a symmetrical posture, due to cerebral palsy, brain injury, multiple sclerosis, or other conditions.</p> <p><i>This impairment typically affects the ability to control legs, trunk, arms and/or hand function. Some athletes affected by this impairment may compete in the Wheelchair division. Athletes in this classification are not required to use blocks – they may crouch, stand, or utilize a 3-point stance with or without blocks.</i></p>
Visual Impairment	<p>Vision is impacted by either an impairment of the eye structure, optical nerve/pathways or the part of the brain controlling vision (visual cortex).</p> <p><i>To ensure a fair competition, athletes in this class may be required to wear eyeshades. Athletes in this classification may be allowed to utilize a guide based on the severity of their limitation.</i></p> <p><i>Athlete may utilize one guide for throwing events. Guides may utilize voice, clapping or both to direct the athlete and orient the athlete on the runway or in the ring. A guide may escort athletes away after the judge determines the attempt was valid. Athlete <b>must</b> exit circle or runway before guide can physically assist – verbal assistance in exiting is OK.</i></p>

**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	<p>Total or partial absence of bones or joints, from birth or as a consequence of trauma (e.g. car accident or amputation) or illness (e.g. bone cancer).</p> <p><i>Athletes in this classification are not required to use blocks – they may crouch, stand, or utilize a 3-point stance with or without blocks. If a prosthesis is used, it must be used while in competition. Athletes are not allowed to hop.</i></p> <p><i>Athletes will utilize a competition-throwing platform (chair) – athlete must remain seated with both legs in contact with seat from the back of the knee to the back of the buttocks.</i></p>
Impaired muscle power	<p>Reduced force generated by muscles or muscle groups, may occur in one limb or the lower half of the body, as caused, for example, by spinal cord injuries, Spina Bifida or Poliomyelitis.</p> <p><i>Athletes will utilize a competition-throwing platform (chair) – athlete must remain seated with both legs in contact with seat from the back of the knee to the back of the buttocks.</i></p>
Impaired passive range of movement	<p>Range of movement in one or more joints is reduced permanently.</p> <p>Joints that can move beyond the average range of motion, joint instability, and acute conditions, such as arthritis, are not considered eligible impairments.</p> <p><i>Athletes will utilize a competition-throwing platform (chair) – athlete must remain seated with both legs in contact with seat from the back of the knee to the back of the buttocks.</i></p>

Accommodation 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.