

# IESA Track and Field: Wheelchair Division

## 1. DEFINITION OF ELIGIBILITY

Students with disabilities will compete in events within the Wheelchair Division regardless of school classification. A disability is a physical, visual, or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity.

Wheelchair Division: students who use a wheelchair for mobility or sports or those that have been classified as T/F 31-34, T51-54, or F51-57.

Students who qualify for the Wheelchair Division will compete separately for place and medals.

## 2. REGISTRATION

Students with disabilities wishing to participate in this Division must have a statement of disability on file with appropriate personnel responsible for student health issues at the student's school. The IESA reserves the right to request this documentation as part of the entry process.

Deadline for entry into the Wheelchair Division is May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- a. Please email Nicole Schaeftbauer ([nicole@iesa.org](mailto:nicole@iesa.org)) if you have an athlete you would like to register for this Division.
- b. Once the entry email has been received, you will be sent a form for additional information regarding your athlete.

## 3. MEET/EVENT FORMAT

At the State Meet, the Wheelchair Division will occur immediately before the same race of the athletes without disabilities race.

At the State Meet, competitors in the Wheelchair Division shall be integrated into the field event preliminaries with competitors without disabilities.

The Wheelchair Division will consist of a 100-meter track event and shot put.

### STATE MEET:

- a. **Field Event:** Athletes in the Wheelchair Division competing in field events will be integrated into the meet schedule on Friday but will be placed within the Wheelchair Division for final placement and awards.
- b. **Running Event:** Athletes competing in the Wheelchair Division in Track events will compete in heats immediately preceding the equivalent heat within the schedule. For example, a final in the Wheelchair Division in the 100-meter will be run immediately preceding the 100-meter dash finals on Friday afternoon.

## 4. EVENT MODIFICATIONS

In the Wheelchair Division, the following modifications will apply.

**Throwing Events:** Students will be allowed to compete in throwing events from their wheelchair or a throwing-specific chair (“field chair”).

1. The field chair must comply with the Adaptive Track & Field USA (ATFUSA) and World Para Athletics (WPA) rules or must comply with the following standards:
  - i. The field chair sitting surface including the cushion must not exceed 75 cm in height. If the field chair has a holding bar, it must be fixed (no articulating joints).
  - ii. No part of the field chair may be outside the circumference of the circle. For the shot put, the wheelchair or field chair must remain stationary during the competition.
  - iii. The athlete may have an individual hold the chair during the throw to prevent movement.
  - iv. The wheelchair or field chair may be anchored with straps to stakes in the ground. The stakes and straps may be in or outside the throwing circle. The athletes may use non-elastic straps to anchor them into the chair.
  - v. Athletes may compete with one or both feet on or off the ground. If the athlete competes with a foot on the ground, the foot must be inside the circle and the athlete’s buttocks may not rise off the seat of the chair until the implement lands.
  - vi. The size and weight of the discus and shot for the Wheelchair Division shall be the same as used for all other female and male participants.

**Track Events:** Wheelchair Division Athletes must compete in a manually operated wheelchair and must propel themselves. Students may use a wheelchair or track (racing) chair for competition. It is recommended that athletes use a track (racing wheelchair) for racing events.

1. If a track chair is used, it must meet the following specifications:
  - i. A wheelchair has a maximum of four wheels.
  - ii. The diameter of the two largest wheels (including inflated tire) does not exceed 28 inches.
  - iii. For a track chair, the third wheel’s diameter does not exceed 20 inches (including inflated tire) and is not smaller than 10 inches. Only one push rim shall be attached to each large wheel.
  - iv. The chair’s seat, including cushion, shall not exceed 25 inches in height.
  - v. The athlete, when in a racing chair (on or off the track) shall wear an approved bicycle or wheelchair racing helmet.
  - vi. The hub of the wheelchair’s front wheels must be completely behind the vertical plane of the starting line at the beginning of the race.
  - vii. If an unsafe situation or mechanical failure should occur during the race, a competitor may be assisted back into his/her chair by a bystander to continue racing, if requested by the athlete. No forward assistance or momentum should be provided.
  - viii. The finish is determined by the hub of the front wheels breaking the vertical plane of the finish line. NOTE: If not specifically mentioned in this document the chair shall comply with Adaptive Track & Field (ATFUSA) and World Para Athletics (WPA).