
1. SPORT: WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

2. DESCRIPTION:

A Wheelchair Tennis match is played between two (singles) or four athletes (doubles) with loss of motor function in one or both lower extremities. There is a special class for quadriplegics (quads), or athletes with loss of motor function in the lower extremities and functional disability or amputation in the upper extremities. The Paralympic Games Wheelchair Tennis consists of six events:

- Men's singles
- Women's singles
- Men's doubles
- Women's doubles
- Quads singles
- Quads doubles

The aim in Wheelchair Tennis is to hit the ball with one's racket so that it crosses over the net and lands on the opponent's court.

The game of Wheelchair Tennis follows the ITF Rules of Tennis with a few exceptions:

- a) The Wheelchair Tennis player is allowed two bounces of the ball. The player must return the ball before it hits the ground a third time. The second bounce can be either in or out of the court boundaries.
- b) The wheelchair is considered part of the body and all applicable rules, which apply to a player's body, shall apply to the wheelchair.

The winner is the player or pair to win two sets (best-of-three set match). To win a set an athlete or pair must win six games, with a tie-break employed at 6:6

3. PARTICIPANTS:

- a. **Competitors:** 12 athletes (male or female)
- b. **Coaches:** 4 coaches

4. CLASSIFICATION:

4.1 Age restrictions:

There are no age restrictions. Selection will be based on personal ability (RAW talent) and ranking. It is more or less an open call.

4.2 The eligibility requirement for men's and women's events is a permanent substantial or total loss of function in one or both legs due to conditions such as spinal injury, ankylosis, amputation or other lower limb disability.

For the quad division the eligibility criteria require that a player has a disability in three or more limbs.

5 ELIGIBILITY:

5.1 Competitors:

Athletes in Wheelchair Tennis must meet all eligibility requirements outlined below to be eligible to participate in the Ontario Para Provincial Summer Championships:

- i. The athlete must be a member of one of one of Paralympics Ontario's member organizations (Ontario Amputee and Les Autres Association; Ontario Blind Sports Association; Ontario Cerebral Palsy Sports Association; Ontario Wheelchair Sports Association).
- ii. The athlete must have competed in a qualifying event at either a sanctioned Paralympics Ontario competition or event (e.g. Talent identification camp), or a PSO competition or event.

5.2 Coaches

Any staff listed as coaches on the official registration form must be fully certified (theory, technical and practical) under the National Coaching Certification Program to at least Level 1 in Wheelchair Tennis.

Coaches will be selected

Selection of Coaches – OWSA, Tennis Canada and PO will be apart of the selection process. OWSA tennis rep should be consulted.

6 FACILITY

Court: The court is a 23.77m x 8.23m rectangle for singles and a 23.77m x 10.97m rectangle for doubles. The same court can be marked for both singles and doubles. The court is divided into two halves by a net, which extends at a height of 0.914m at its centre and 1.07m at its sides. There are four types of courts:

Hard courts
Carpet courts

Accessible Changeover: to aid in changing side between matches, accessible changeover access is required. If there is not enough space between courts, an empty court between to playing courts makes this possible if the nets are not moveable.

7 COMPETITION:

7.1 Schedule:
Follow able bodied schedules

7.2 Rules:
Wheelchair tennis follows the same rules as able-bodied tennis with the following exceptions:

The Two-Bounce Rule

The wheelchair tennis player is allowed two bounces of the ball. The player must return the ball before it hits the ground a third time. The second bounce can be either in or out of the court boundaries.

b) The Wheelchair

The wheelchair is considered part of the body and all applicable Rules which apply to a player's body shall apply to the wheelchair.

c) The Service

The service shall be delivered in the following manner:

- i. Immediately before commencing the serve, the server shall be in a stationary position. The server shall then be allowed one push before striking the ball.
- ii. The server shall throughout the delivery of the service not touch with any wheel, any area other than that behind the baseline within the imaginary extension of the centre mark and sideline.
- iii. If conventional methods for the service are physically impossible for a quadriplegic player, then the player or an individual may drop the ball for such a player. However, the same method of serving must be used each time.

d) Player Loses Point

A player loses a point if:

- i. He fails to return the ball before it has touched the ground three times.
- ii. Subject to rule e) below. He uses any part of his feet or lower extremities as brakes or as stabilizers while delivering service, stroking a ball, turning or stopping against the ground or against any wheel while the ball is in play.

- iii. He fails to keep one buttock in contact with his wheelchair seat when contacting the ball.

e) Propelling the Chair with the Foot

- i. If due to lack of capacity a player is unable to propel the wheelchair via the wheel then he may propel the wheelchair using one foot.
- ii. Even if in accordance with rule e) i. above a player is permitted to propel the chair using one foot, no part of the player's foot may be in contact with the ground:
- during the forward motion of the swing, including when the racket strikes the ball;
 - from the initiation of the service motion until the racket strikes the ball.
- iii. A player in breach of this Rule shall lose a point.

f) Wheelchair/Able-bodied Tennis

Where a wheelchair tennis player is playing with or against an able-bodied person in singles and doubles, the Rules of Wheelchair Tennis shall apply for the wheelchair player while the Rules of Tennis for able-bodied tennis shall apply for the able-bodied player. In this instance, the wheelchair player is allowed two bounces while the able-bodied player is allowed only one bounce.

Note: The definition of lower extremities is: the lower limb, including the buttocks, hip, thigh, leg, ankle and foot.

7.3 Practice/Warm-Up:

If travel schedules permit practice times will be made available

The competition schedule will allow for appropriate warm-up time for all athletes. Exact warm-up times will be made available once the competition schedule is finalized

7.3 Duration of Games

For most of the ITF tournaments held around the world. 100% of the Men's draw is best 2 of 3 sets. The recommendation is to raise the bar with the exception of the Quad category. Due to body temperature regulation and the perceptibility of overheating Men's draw Quads play best 2 of 3 sets and Para's play best 3 of 5 sets.

8 TIE BREAKING:

8.1 Follow same rules as able bodied Tennis

7 EQUIPMENT:

Ball: a) A ball is made of two elastic hemispheres joined together and covered by a layer of wool and synthetic threads. Its colour must be yellow or white.

b) Host Committee is responsible for purchase of a minimum of 1 case of tennis balls (12 cans of 3-4 balls)

Racket: The first tennis rackets were wooden and strings were made of ship or ewe bowels. Tennis rackets today are made of technologically advanced material such as graphite with strings made of synthetic threads. Wheelchair Tennis athletes may have a special strap wound around their hand to help them hold the racket.

Wheelchair: A tennis wheelchair is lighter than usual. Speed and chair maneuverability are very important for Wheelchair Tennis and the chairs are constantly improved to meet these criteria.

9. OFFICIALS:

Major Officials - Certified Provincial level Wheelchair Tennis officials will be selected to officiate.

9.1 Number of officials – minimum 1 umpire, other TBD determined based on schedule.

The number of Officials will depend on the number of courts and number of Matches being played in a day. Numbers can be determined by those two figures.

9.2 Minor Officials – locally trained volunteers for ball boys/girls and minor officials. Important: minor officials must know the rules and etiquette of the sport of tennis.

10. PROTEST PROCEDURES:

10.1 Primary contact to officials. Secondary, to the tournament director.

11. MEDALS:

Medals - There should be medals and a winner for each classification.
For example - Quad open , Quad A , Quad B champions and runner - up
Para open , Para A , Para B champions and runner - up

Gold: 12

Silver: 12

12. COMPETITIVE UNIFORMS

Athletes are required to look presentable and professional. All national Team athletes must wear National uniforms while on court.