

# 2010 National Wheelchair Rugby League RULES AND REGULATIONS

(as at 22 January 2010)



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# 2010 National Wheelchair Rugby League

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

Wheelchair Rugby Australia (WRA) conducts the National Wheelchair Rugby League (NWRL), which may bear the name of a sponsor from time to time.

WRA exists as a Sports Section of Wheelchair Sports Australia Ltd (WSA). WSA in consultation with WRA provides services such as accounting, administration, entry processing etc. The NWRL is managed by the League's Executive (LE) who maintains regular contact with WRA.

### ***Policies***

The NWRL follows the following policies and procedures of WSA.

### ***Objectives***

1. Promote the development of wheelchair rugby for players.
2. Provide high quality competition for players of all levels on a regular basis.
3. Position the National Wheelchair Rugby League as a high profile sporting competition and enhance the level of community awareness of wheelchair rugby.
4. Promote unity and friendship amongst all the players.
5. Provide a pathway for players and officials from local competition through to National representation, inclusive of local leagues and team championships.
6. Create a positive association for sponsors with elite wheelchair sport along with the recognition of athleticism and sporting excellence.
7. Achieve a profile for sponsors as good corporate citizens and major supporters of Paralympic Sports, and specifically wheelchair rugby.

## **Code of Conduct**

Athletes, coaches and officials associated with the NWRL must be aware that they are often the focus of public attention. The NWRL expects that all teams and associated personnel will agree to the following code of conduct and as such each person will be asked to sign the code of conduct as part of the registration process.

### **1. General**

- 1.1 Abide by both the rules and the spirit of all competitions.
- 1.2 Conduct myself in a manner that will not discredit me, my team, the NWRL and other teams.
- 1.3 At all times when travelling to and from and whilst participating in a sporting or social event, dress in team uniform or other attire appropriate to the occasion.
- 1.4 Obey and respect any direction given by an appointee of the NWRL.
- 1.5 Refrain from using offensive or abusive language.
- 1.6 Refrain from being intoxicated and using any banned drugs or substances.

### **2. Players**

- 2.1 Whilst competing obey and respect any direction given by an official.
- 2.2 Applaud all good plays whether they are from my team or the opposition and enjoy my game.
- 2.3 Cooperate with my coach, teammates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- 2.4 Never argue with an official. If I disagree, I will have my captain, coach or manager approach the official at the appropriate time.
- 2.5 Not engage in physical or verbal abuse of officials, other players or spectators. Deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted.

### **3. Coaches/Managers/Officials**

- 3.1 Be reasonable in my demands.
- 3.2 Teach players to follow the rules and set a good example.
- 3.3 Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- 3.4 Condemn unsporting behaviour.
- 3.5 Report incidents in writing to the League Executive by completing the appropriate form within seven (7) days.

# SECTION 1: Competition Management

## 1 **League Executive**

- 1.1 The League Executive administers the NWRL. The League Executive is comprised of the NWRL Commissioner, the WSA Executive Officer, a WSA Board Member and League Specialist. The League Executive conducts the business of the NWRL following the Rules and Regulations of the NWRL.
- 1.2 The League Executive reserves the right to amend these Rules and Regulations at any time. Teams have the right to apply to the League Executive for special consideration in extenuating circumstances or instances not specifically covered in these Rules and Regulations. All applications for Special Consideration must be made in writing and endorsed by the relevant State Wheelchair Sports Association.

## 2 **Rationalisation**

### 2.1 **General**

- 2.1.1 To ensure accessibility for all teams in the competition, the game related costs of the League tournament weekends are to be rationalised. For the purpose of rationalisation a team is considered as a maximum of nine (9) people (players and staff). Teams may bring a maximum of nine (9) players to each round. If teams wish to bring more than nine (9) people they will bear the full cost of the extra people.
- 2.1.2 Items included in the NWRL rationalisation are:
  - a) Airfares for Australian teams\* (to and from team's capital city)
  - b) Ground transport
  - c) Accommodation
    - i. Two nights per round for all away teams.
    - ii. Three nights for all away teams for the finals round
  - d) Referee and official game payments
  - e) Court hire for games
  - f) Medical coverage (as approved by the League Executive)
  - g) Administration and marketing
- 2.1.3 Team lunches are NOT included in the rationalisation
- 2.1.4 Costs for 1 import player per team (if required) will also be included in rationalisation as follows:
  - a) Flight costs to and from the team's capital city and the rounds
  - b) Ground Transport and Accommodation at the rounds

### 2.2 **Accommodation**

The host state will book accommodation on behalf of each team, visiting teams are to finalise arrangements with the host state at least 4 weeks prior to the round. Room only invoices are to be sent to WSA for payment. Teams that do not confirm their team accommodation arrangements with the host state at least 4 weeks prior to the round may incur additional charges or cancellation of their accommodation booking.

### 2.3 **Flights**

Teams are responsible for booking and paying for their own flights. Each Australian travelling team is given an allowance for flights. Flight allowances are set by the League Executive before

the start of each season, based on the standard 6 weeks advance fare (please see the entry pack for flight allowances). Flight allowances are deducted from team payments.

## **2.4 Medical Coverage**

The host organisation MUST arrange appropriate medical coverage and first aid supplies for the competition venue. Minimum coverage MUST include at least Senior First Aid or Sports Trainer Qualified Services WITH field experience OR Registered Nurse OR Physiotherapist OR Medical Doctor and MUST be available at the competition venue during the hours of competition. Hosts must apply to the League Executive at least two months in advance of the round for approval of services and allocation of funds from the rationalisation towards the medical coverage. Additional services such as massage could be provided at the host organisations' discretion and expense. To be reviewed periodically for appropriateness or as directed by WSA.

## **3 Competition Responsibilities**

### **3.1 The League Executive (LE)**

- 3.1.1 The LE advises states of opportunities to host a round and the preferred date. The state then seeks endorsement from the LE for the date of the round and the appropriateness of facility.
- 3.1.2 Reviews the Rules and Regulations on an annual basis
- 3.1.3 Prepares the budget and proposed rationalisation for each season.
- 3.1.4 Manages and prepares information for the website and other promotions such as the season Program/ Team guide. Collates results, statistics and voting forms from host organisations.
- 3.1.5 Prepares each season's entry pack.
- 3.1.6 Liases with the WRA Head Referee who coordinates the referee roster. League Executive to approve all assignments to ensure cost effectiveness and development of Australian officials.
- 3.1.7 Liases with host organisations to coordinate score tables.
- 3.1.8 Coordinates sending of sponsor signage to be displayed by Host Organisation
- 3.1.9 Arranges perpetual trophies and individual trophies/mementos.
- 3.1.10 Receives entry information from teams to compile all related documents.
- 3.1.11 Supplies the balls to be used during the season to the League Commissioner.
- 3.1.12 Approves level of medical coverage and costs for host organisations.

### **3.2 Wheelchair Rugby Australia**

- 3.2.1 Appoints the Head Referee and League Commissioner each 2 years
- 3.2.2 Arranges the attendance of a classifier at the rounds of the NWRL as needed.
- 3.2.3 Organises officials, classification and coaching courses in conjunction with league rounds as required.

### **3.3 Wheelchair Sports Australia**

- 3.3.1 Coordinates payments for items included in the rationalisation.
- 3.3.2 Undertakes administration of the league.

### **3.4 League Commissioner**

- 3.4.1 Works with WRA to coordinate planning of the League Season
- 3.4.2 Distributes game paperwork to score tables before each game

- 3.4.3 Collects all score sheets at the conclusion of the games and forwards results to WSA at the completion of the round
- 3.4.4 Distributes Awards Voting Forms to teams each round and collects at the conclusion of each round and forwards to WSA
- 3.4.5 Provides a report to WSA at the conclusion of each round (including assessment of the host organisation, venue, details of any issues or concerns)
- 3.4.6 Works with host states to ensure they are able to meet their hosting obligations
- 3.4.7 Point of contact for teams to request special exemptions or to clarify Rules and Regulations

### **3.5 Host Organisation**

- 3.5.1 Arranges the playing venue. The court hire will be paid by the NWRL from the rationalisation. Access to the stadium and playing court is required at least one hour prior to the first game each day. Facilities required include:
  - a) Access to a meeting room or other secure area for the game officials,
  - b) Change rooms,
  - c) Storage areas for chairs between games and overnight,
  - d) Access to a photocopier and fax machine,
  - e) Score table equipment – visual timing, visual 40 second clock, visual score board, alternate arrow, buzzer
  - f) Provides tape to mark the courts,
  - g) At least one wheelchair accessible toilet,
  - h) Access to private area for classification.
- 3.5.2 Arranges appropriate accommodation for teams. The minimum requirements are 3 star accommodation and provision of at least one wheelchair accessible room per team.
- 3.5.3 Arranges appropriate transport for teams in line with the amount of luggage and wheelchairs specified by teams on their team travel form.
- 3.5.4 If officials are required from interstate the host organisation arranges their transport and accommodation at the same accommodation as the visiting teams. This is paid for out of the rationalisation.
- 3.5.5 Ensures that teams and officials can arrange their own lunches/refreshments at the playing venue or nearby at their own expense.
- 3.5.6 Arranges tea/coffee and water at no charge for game officials.
- 3.5.7 Arranges appropriate medical coverage and first aid supplies for the competition venue. Minimum coverage MUST include at least Senior First Aid or Sports Trainer Qualified Services WITH field experience OR Registered Nurse OR Physiotherapist OR Medical Doctor and MUST be available at the competition venue during the hours of competition. Hosts must apply to the League Executive at least two months in advance of the round for approval of services and allocation of funds from the rationalisation towards the medical coverage. Additional services such as massage could be provided at the host organisations' discretion and expense.
- 3.5.8 Arranges the score table officials who will have experience or have received the necessary training prior to the round.
- 3.5.9 Arranges a Local League Commissioner for the round when instructed by Wheelchair Rugby Australia, to fulfil the duties of the League Commissioner outlined above when required. The Local Commissioner may consult with the NWRL Commissioner or WRA Head Official for technical advice if required.
- 3.5.10 Provides game paperwork to the League Commissioner at the commencement of the weekend.

- 3.5.11 Provides Awards Voting Forms the League Commissioner at the commencement of the weekend
- 3.5.12 Prints and distributes the NWRL program as per the template provided by the League Executive.
- 3.5.13 Coordinates pre-game presentation and act as the announcer where required having organised the sound system, warm-up music, CD player and CDs.
- 3.5.14 Displays WSA, NWRL and its sponsor signs in a prominent position as directed by WSA and the League Executive (made available by the League Executive).
- 3.5.15 Coordinates presentation ceremony at the conclusion of the Final Round in liaison with the League Executive. The host works with the League Executive to coordinate the transport and care of trophies, and confirm the presenters/speakers. Assists with promotions/local media opportunities and contacts.
- 3.5.16 Host organisations may conduct other activities that promote the League such as post game functions, involvement of sponsors or half-time entertainment at their own cost.
- 3.5.17 Teams and host organisations are to provide copies and details of any media coverage to WRA.
- 3.5.18 Provides a brief report of the weekend games for use in media releases to WSA Arrives at the venue at least one hour prior to the first game to ensure that all is in readiness for competition.
- 3.5.19 Meets teams on arrival at venue and distributes any information.
- 3.5.20 Arranges Manager's Meetings as required.
- 3.5.21 Ensures courts are ready for play – i.e. court lines accurately marked, courts swept, score table operational (lights, protector, air horn, score board, penalty box). Provide towels for under the score table to be used on the court as required.
- 3.5.22 Liaises with game officials and delivers payments.

### **3.6 Teams/ Team Manager**

- 3.6.1 Provides information by published deadlines.
- 3.6.2 Nominates a team contact/manager person who will be the one point of contact for the team during the weekend.
- 3.6.3 Arranges own team flights, meals and other incidentals.
- 3.6.4 Nominates a person for the Judiciary. This person does not necessarily need to be from the team but should be available at League tournament weekends.
- 3.6.5 Teams are to provide relevant profile information for each player along with the Team Registration list together with a photo of each individual to be used for promotional purposes.
- 3.6.6 Teams and host organisations are to provide copies and details of any media coverage to WRA.

# SECTION 2: Competition Guidelines

## 1 Rules

- 1.1 The rules and interpretations for the NWRL will be the current IWRFL Rules with the variations as outlined in this document.

## 2 Competition Structure

### 2.1 General

- 2.1.1 The competition is open to all teams from Australia and New Zealand subject to guidelines or standards, which the LE issues from time to time.
- 2.1.2 Other countries may also be invited to enter teams from time to time, subject to guidelines and standards set down by the League Executive.
- 2.1.3 The playing composition of the NWRL shall consist of the previous year's re-nominating teams plus other team(s) as accepted by the LE.
- 2.1.4 In general the competition will consist of 1 team per Australian state. States may apply to the League Executive to enter a second team. Second teams will be accepted at the discretion of the League Executive and in cases where it is believed that the second team will benefit the League and/or development of Wheelchair Rugby in Australia
- 2.1.5 Countries will be limited to 1 team only.
- 2.1.6 Four weekends will be conducted with each team playing up to 6 games each weekend. This will be reviewed periodically.
- 2.1.7 Semi-finals and medal play-offs will be conducted as part of the Final Round

### 2.2 Season Draw

- 2.2.1 The LE will finalise dates and circulate this information to teams and host organisations at least 3 months prior to the commencement of the season and earlier if possible.
- 2.2.2 The LE will produce the draft draw following the NWRL Rules and Regulations. The draft draw will be distributed to WRA as early as possible but no later than 6 weeks prior to the commencement of the season.

### 2.3 Competition Dates

- 2.3.1 The competition is played April to September subject to National team commitments.

### 2.4 Matches

- 2.4.1 Teams must have at least half an hour break between games.
- 2.4.2 Teams playing the last game each day will not be scheduled to play the first game the following morning where possible.
- 2.4.3 Teams playing at home will be scheduled to play the last game of each round to give away teams the chance to depart earlier, except in the case of the final round where the Gold Medal match will be the last match.

### 2.5 Points Table

- 2.5.1 Win/loss records will determine seeding for semi-finals. If two teams tie at the end of the season then those team's head to head records will determine the higher seeding. If the two teams are tied on head to head, goal differential between the two teams will determine the higher seeding. If they are still tied overall season goal differential (against all teams) will be used to determine the higher seeding.

- 2.5.2 In the event of a three-way tie the goal differential between the three teams tied will determine the seeding. If the three teams are still tied overall season goal differential (against all teams) will be used to determine the higher seeding. If two of the three teams are tied on goal differential, those team's head to head records will determine the higher seeding. If they are still tied overall season goal differential (against all teams) will be used to determine the higher seeding
- 2.5.3 Competition Points will be awarded as follows:
- a) 2 Points for a win
  - b) 0 Points for a loss or forfeit

## **2.6 Forfeits**

- 2.6.1 Unless extenuating circumstances are accepted by the opposing team and referees, or an appeal is made and allowed by the Judiciary. A team shall lose the game by forfeit if:
- a) It refuses to play after being instructed to do so by the referee
  - b) Its actions prevent the game from being played
  - c) Fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled starting time, the team is not present or is not able to field four (4) players ready to play.
- 2.6.2 A team claiming a forfeit must do so on the score sheet.
- 2.6.3 A score of 20-0 is awarded to the team who received the forfeit and 0-20 to the forfeiting team.

## **2.7 Defaults**

- 2.7.1 A team shall lose a game by default if, during the game, the number of players of that team on the court is less than two (2).
- 2.7.2 If the team to which the game is awarded is ahead, the score at the time of the stoppage shall stand. If the team to which the game is awarded is not ahead, the score shall be recorded as 20-0 in its favour.
- 2.7.3 The defaulting team shall receive the points for a loss.

## **2.8 Flagrant Fouls (Card System)**

- 2.8.1 A player deemed guilty of having committed a flagrant foul shall be issued with a Yellow card. The yellow card will stay in place for the duration of the league weekend
- 2.8.2 A player deemed guilty of having committed a second flagrant foul in the same weekend shall receive a Red Card and be disqualified from playing in their team's next match. Should the Red Card come during their team's last match of the round, the 1 match disqualification will carry over to their team's first match of the next round
- 2.8.3 All yellow cards will become null and void at the conclusion of each round

# **3 Teams and Players**

## **3.1 Registration of Teams**

- 3.1.1 All prospective teams must submit a team expression of interest along with a fee of \$500 to WRA by the due date prior to the start of each season.
- 3.1.2 All prospective teams must submit a team nomination and agreement along with a registration fee of \$1000 to WRA by the due date prior to the start of each season.
- 3.1.3 A Wheelchair Sports Australia Ltd affiliated association must endorse each Australian team's nomination and agreement. Teams nominating from other countries must have their team nomination and agreement endorsed by their respective IWRP Member Organisation.

- 3.1.4 Late entries will only be accepted in extraordinary circumstances and then only with the approval of WRA. A late entry fee may apply.

## **3.2 Registration of Players**

- 3.2.1 A team may register up to twelve (12) players.
- 3.2.2 Teams must provide their team registration list by the due date advertised in the entry pack. Teams will attract a \$100 fine every week their team registration is late.
- 3.2.3 Teams must provide their individual player registration forms by the due date advertised in the entry pack. Teams will attract a \$100 fine every week their individual player registration forms are late.
- 3.2.4 During the season players may be added to the Team's Registration List by applying to the LE and paying a late registration fee of \$100.00 per player. Novice players, if classified, are exempt from the late registration fee.
- 3.2.5 All players in Australian teams must be a financial member of a Wheelchair Sports Australia Ltd affiliated organisation. All players in teams from other countries must belong to their respective IWRF member organisation.
- 3.2.6 A team may only play one imported player per season. Imported players must play in two of the first three rounds to qualify for the finals series. An import player is any interstate or overseas player that does not reside in that state. A player that is NOT an Australian citizen or resident is regarded as an import even if they reside in the state for the period of the league season. Any Australian player that moves to another state for the period of the league season is NOT regarded as an import. Any interstate player that plays for the same state without residing there in consecutive years, will no longer be regarded as an import from their third consecutive year onwards. Note if the interstate player does not play for that same state in consecutive years, they will again be regarded as an import should they begin playing for that state again. All other decisions regarding imported players that fall outside of the above criteria will be made at the discretion of the League Executive.
- 3.2.7 Travelling team numbers are limited to nine (9) (athletes and staff included) for rationalisation purposes. A maximum of nine (9) players may travel to each round. The LE reserves the right to refuse entry to a team staff member in order to prevent teams from bringing staff unnecessarily. Teams may be asked to justify the role of any team staff member at any stage during the season.
- 3.2.8 The list of players for each round of the competition must be provided to the LE no later than four (4) weeks prior to each round. Teams will attract a \$100 fine every week their team list is late.
- 3.2.9 Costs for numbers above nine (9) or above the maximum allowable players/staff will be borne by the team.

## **3.3 Player Draft**

- 3.3.1 The NWRL will conduct an annual player draft for those players not rostered by their home state and unable to secure a transfer, but still wishing to compete in the NWRL season. It is not compulsory for teams to participate in the draft (i.e. if they have a full playing roster already). Details on how the draft will operate can be found in appendice A: NWRL Player Draft on pages 24 and in appendice C: 2010 NWRL Player Draft and On-call Pool Form on page 26.

## **3.4 Eligibility for Finals**

- 3.4.1 To be eligible for the finals series ALL players must have taken the court and played in two of the first three rounds of the current NWRL season.
- 3.4.2 A team may make application to the League Executive to have this set aside when a listed player could not play a required round because of Australian representation (with a sanctioned Australian representative team), injury, illness or other special circumstance.

During the period of injury, illness or other special circumstances the player must be resident in Australia. A medical certificate must be provided for injury or illness. Appropriate documentation must be provided for other special circumstances and Australian representation (with a sanctioned Australian representative team).

### **3.5 Participation in Games**

- 3.5.1 Should a player listed on the score sheet not participate in that game, the player's name must be deleted from the score sheet by that team's coach.
- 3.5.2 To participate in a game means to be legally on the score sheet and to play or be present at the players' bench in playing uniform during the game.
- 3.5.3 Any player that is marked on the score sheet pre game and signed off by the coach may play. It is not the referees' concern to know if the player is eligible to play or not.
- 3.5.4 Nine (9) players can be listed per team per game.
- 3.5.5 Any player who is serving a disqualification from that game is not permitted in the team area at any stage

### **3.6 Transfer of Players**

- 3.6.1 Players may transfer teams between seasons provided any debts with the original team are paid and the player has a release form (available in the entry pack) signed from their previous team's state Wheelchair Sports Australia Ltd affiliated organisation. The original signed copy of the release form **MUST** be submitted with the team registration list.
- 3.6.2 A transfer player is **NOT** considered to be an imported player if they are an Australian citizen or resident that moves to another state for the period of the league season.
- 3.6.3 A transfer player is considered to be an imported player if they do not reside in the same state. However any interstate player that plays for the same state without residing there in consecutive years, will no longer be regarded as an import from their third consecutive year onwards. Note if the interstate player does not play for that same state in consecutive years, they will again be regarded as an import should they begin playing for that state again (see Registration of Players on page 12).
- 3.6.4 All other decisions regarding player transfers that fall outside of the above criteria will be made at the discretion of the League Executive.

### **3.7 Team Uniforms**

- 3.7.1 Each team must possess two complete sets of playing tops or one (1) reversible set. One must be a predominantly light colour and the other a predominantly dark colour.
- 3.7.2 Players' numbers must be in the following range: 1-15. Numbers must be visible at all times on the back of the singlet. Numbers need not be displayed on the front of playing tops for teams using existing playing shirts. However numbers must be included on both the front and back of playing tops as per the IWRFL rules for teams that replace existing uniforms with new uniforms.
- 3.7.3 T-shirts, of a solid colour, may be worn under a player's top matching the predominant colour of the tops and be uniform throughout the team. Text or graphics on the T-shirt must not be visible except for an approved sponsor. Players wearing odd or inconsistent coloured T-shirts will not be permitted to compete in NWRL matches. Skins or other compression garments may be worn under the playing tops in either the matching predominant colour of the playing top or in black.
- 3.7.4 The home team wears the light colour uniform. However where opposing teams have uniforms that are similar in colour, the home team is required to change to the alternate set. The first team listed on the score sheet is the home team.
- 3.7.5 Teams may have decided together and in advance as to who wears the light and dark uniform. If there is a dispute go by the above rule.

- 3.7.6 Sponsorship advertising is permitted on player uniforms and spoke guards. All uniform designs must be submitted to the League Executive eight (8) weeks prior to the first round for approval.
- 3.7.7 The NWRL reserves the right to add logos to playing tops.
- 3.7.8 The NWRL has the rights to add logos to the front right breast of playing tops. Teams may use the front left breast of playing tops for state/team sponsor/association logos, or player numbers.
- 3.7.9 Teams have rights to spoke guards, however the League reserves the right to add a 10cm x 10cm logo on each guard.

## **4 Classification**

### **4.1 General**

- 4.1.1 The NWRL is conducted under the IWRF Functional Classification System. All players competing in the NWRL must have an IWRF Card or NWRL approved National Classification Card.
- 4.1.2 WRA will organise the attendance of an accredited classification panel at the first round of the NWRL to classify new players and review players that have had a change in medical status or deterioration in function. The cost will be included in the rationalisation. New players may bring medical documentation if they believe it is relevant. Players requiring a review **MUST** advise the Chief Classifier at least one month prior to the first round of the NWRL as well as present relevant documentation to the Chief Classifier prior to the start of the first round of the NWRL.
- 4.1.3 If a player requires classification after the first round it is the team's responsibility to arrange this.
- 4.1.4 Under extenuating circumstances, late registration of players playing under provisional classification is subject to approval by the League Executive and Chief Classifier. Teams must apply to the League Executive and pay the applicable late registration fee (see registration of players on page 12). It is the team's responsibility to arrange for the player to be classified in this instance, and to forward a copy of the classification card to WRA and the Chief Classifier for verification.

### **4.2 Classification Cards**

- 4.2.1 A copy of each player's classification card must be submitted with the team registration list. These copies will form a central register that will be available at each tournament weekend. Newly classified and reviewed players that obtain their classification card at round one **MUST** provide a copy of their classification card to the League Commissioner at round one of the NWRL that is to be forwarded to the WRA office immediately following the round.
- 4.2.2 Should a team not bring their classification cards to any round of the League, they may hire the central register for the weekend at a cost of \$100.
- 4.2.3 Teams are responsible for making their own NWRL Classification Cards which must have the following information: Players name, Players class, Players Shirt Number, When and who by the player was classified and a colour passport sized photo of the player and must be laminated.
- 4.2.4 At round one of the NWRL, the classification panel will provide newly classified players and players with revised classifications with their classification card (players **MUST** bring their own passport sized photo).
- 4.2.5 The panel will also provide classification cards for any players that require a card (excluding players that have an international classification card already) provided that they advise the Chief Classifier at least two weeks prior to the first round of the NWRL and they bring their own passport sized photo.

- 4.2.6 A check of ALL players' classification cards will be completed at round one. For any registered player not present at round one, the team must supply a copy of their classification card to be verified by the classification panel at round one. If approval is given by the League Executive for a late registration, then a copy of the player's classification card must be forwarded to WRA and the Head Classifier for verification at this time.

### **4.3 Classification Appeals Process**

- i. If a player wishes to protest their classification, a protest must be lodged by their team coach who must sign the classification protest form.
- ii. The protest form must be accompanied by a \$100 fee and should be given to the League Commissioner within 48 hours of the ruling. This money will be returned in the event of a successful protest.
- iii. The NWRL Classification Commission will assemble a classification protest panel consisting of three classifiers, or if this is not possible a protest panel of two classifiers and the League Commissioner.
- iv. An initial observation session may take place without the player's notification.
- v. After item iv. has occurred, the athlete and/or team coach or team representatives will then be informed of the observation.
- vi. On court observations may be necessary. The athlete may then be evaluated in a bench test session, which is conducted by the protest panel.
- vii. A decision may be made when appropriate. If the protest panel need to vote then a majority decision is necessary. It is an open vote.
- viii. Any change of class occurring as a result of a protest will take effect at the next match.

### **4.4 Other Changes in Classification**

- 4.4.1 Any player's class may be changed at any time during the league. Any change of class takes effect immediately. This includes ineligibility.
- 4.4.2 A National Classification Panel will not have the ability to change an international class.

### **4.5 Maximum Points**

- 4.5.1 The maximum on court classification points is 8.0. This is to be reviewed periodically for appropriateness.
- 4.5.2 If a game starts or re starts with a team having more than 8.0 classification points on the floor the coach is charged with a technical foul. Then the line up must be corrected.
- 4.5.3 Female players will be allowed 0.5 reduction on their classification

## **5 Game Officials**

### **5.1 General**

- 5.1.1 Game fees, accommodation and transport arrangements are reviewed and set annually.
- 5.1.2 The Head Wheelchair Rugby Referee of WRA acts as the NWRL Referees Coordinator.
- 5.1.3 The NWRL is in favour of the development of game officials and where appropriate will arrange for the conduct of clinics in association with league tournament weekends.

## **5.2 League Commissioner**

- 5.2.1 The League Commissioner is responsible for the smooth running of the matches and ensuring that NWRL Rules and Regulations are abided by.
- 5.2.2 Provide referees and teams with access to the central classification register.
- 5.2.3 Coordinate Judiciary Hearings that might arise from the games (see section on Judiciary and Judicial Proceedings on page 17-19).
- 5.2.4 Provides the game ball.
- 5.2.5 Distributes and collects game paperwork
- 5.2.6 Distributes and collects MVP votes from each coach.
- 5.2.7 Meet with Referees and Score bench Officials prior to each game to ensure all is in readiness
- 5.2.8 Makes decisions in relation to the implementation of the Rules and Regulations as required during the weekend
- 5.2.9 Provide a brief report (bullet points) to WRA of the weekend including but not limited to:
  - a) Any incidents
  - b) Comments from officials
  - c) Actions requiring follow-up
- 5.2.10 In 2010 the League Commissioner attending the round will be paid \$10 per game.

## **5.3 Referees**

- 5.3.1 Referees must be of a standard as recommended for NWRL games by the WRA Head Referee.
- 5.3.2 Where possible, each state is to be given the opportunity to provide referees for the league.
- 5.3.3 The WSA Head Referee makes appointments considering:
  - a) Each game must have two qualified referees.
  - b) Referees appointments are notified no less than two weeks in advance. Referees or teams may not make unauthorised changes to appointments.
  - c) In the interest of referee development it is encouraged that one referee be a senior referee and the other a developing referee.
  - d) The NWRL promotes the use of local referees where appropriate and qualified.
  - e) A travel allowance for referees driving more than 100km is available at c/km for the distance over 100km on the production of a logbook to the League Executive.
- 5.3.4 Where possible the WRA Head Referee will appoint a referees evaluator/coach to observe the referees, give verbal feedback to the officials and will be responsible for the strategic planning and evaluation of rugby officials.
- 5.3.5 In 2010 the referee game fee is a maximum of \$95 in total for the officiating team. WRA Head Referee \$55, International Referees \$35 (Level 1 \$35, Level 2 \$40), A badge \$30, B Badge \$25, C badge \$20 and Rookie \$15.

## **5.4 Pre-game Chair and Equipment Check**

- 5.4.1 All players are required to be available courtside between 35 and 20 minutes before their first game of each round for the referees to conduct a chair and equipment check.
- 5.4.2 Referees may conduct a chair and equipment check of a player(s) in the last 20 minutes pre game if that player(s) was not available 35 minutes pre game.
- 5.4.3 During the checking process referees must be given access to check cushions and player seating heights if they request to do so to ensure that they comply with the IWRF rules.

- 5.4.4 Two (2) large wheels at the back maximum diameter 70cm and must be fitted with spoke guards.
- 5.4.5 Anti-tip devices attached to the rear of the chair are compulsory but must not project past the rear wheels and may be one or two wheels.
- 5.4.6 The League Commissioner will hold the central register of classification cards.

## **5.5 Pre-game Timing**

- 5.5.1 Referees are to arrive at the venue at least one (1) hour prior to the commencement of the first rostered game and fulfil the following duties at the nominated times prior to the commencement of the game:
  - i. 40 minutes Meet the League Commissioner.
  - ii. 35 minutes Commence chair and equipment.
  - iii. 20 minutes Be ready on court.
  - iv. 12 minutes Meet captains and coaches. Coach to sign off on score sheet.
  - v. 10 minutes Confirm with score table that all is in readiness  
Indicate first four players.

## **5.6 Score Table and Penalty Box**

- 5.6.1 Score Table and Penalty Box officials must be of a standard as recommended by the League Commissioner or WRA Head Referee for NWRL games.
- 5.6.2 Each game must have three table officials and one penalty box official trained prior to the round.
- 5.6.3 In 2010 the score table and penalty box officials will be paid \$10 per official per game (maximum of \$40 per game for the officiating team).

## **6 Game Review**

- 6.1 A review or complaint of the games official(s) may be lodged within 60 minutes of the completion of the game in question. This review should be in writing and signed off by the coach of the team lodging the review. This signed document shall be given to the League Commissioner unless they are an official involved with the game in question. In that case it shall be given to the Head Official. A second more detailed review can be submitted to the WSA office before the following Friday.
- 6.2 Any player may lodge the review, but it must be signed off by the coach of that team. No costs will be incurred by lodging a review.
- 6.3 A panel consisting of NWRL League Commissioner, Head Official, and member of League Executive will rule as to whether the review is valid or not. If one of the three before mentioned is an official in question, they shall be replaced by an appointed member from AAWD, WSA Board or the WRA Committee.
- 6.4 If the review is valid it will be utilised in the official's ranking and their future game assignments. The Head Official will be responsible for taking appropriate actions to alleviate future incidents. The Head Official may use past incidents as examples of officiating to assist with teaching and development of all officials. This process is designed to increase the officials' skills and accountability while providing a higher level of officiating for the NWRL.
- 6.5 It should be noted that this process has replaced the protest procedure due to the inability to replay games with time constraints and flight schedules. The aim is to ensure that all officials officiate at the same high standard and that they are accountable for providing a fair game to all competitors.

## **7 Judiciary**

### **7.1 General**

- 7.1.1 The Judiciary is made up of a nominated representative by each team, the League Commissioner and a representative of the host organisation. The League Commissioner shall be the Chairperson of the Judiciary and is responsible for the procedure and the conduct of any Judiciary meetings.
- 7.1.2 A quorum of not less than three (3) members will be necessary to convene the Judiciary.

### **7.2 Judicial Proceedings**

- 7.2.1 Where a player or team official at a NWRL competition has been cited by a referee or authorised official, he/she will be subject to the judicial proceedings as defined below.
- 7.2.2 A suspended player, a player against whom a charge has been made and a member or two delegates from the team concerned in regard to a dispute, protest or charge shall have the right to:
- a) Appear before the judiciary
  - b) Call others to give evidence on their behalf within reason and at the discretion of the Chairperson of the Judiciary
  - c) Question any person giving evidence
- 7.2.3 Failure to attend or to apply for a postponement of a Judiciary hearing, the cited player, spectator or team shall abide by the findings of the Judiciary.
- 7.2.4 Any player suspended will not be permitted to participate in any match in that competition until the Judiciary has heard the case, and any team playing a suspended player shall be deemed to have forfeited any competition match in which such player takes part.
- 7.2.5 Should the Judiciary, due to lack of a quorum, fail to convene, the suspended player shall be permitted to resume playing until the Judiciary is convened.
- 7.2.6 The Chairperson shall read and explain to all parties to the hearing, in each other's presence, the full text of the charge(s), protest or appeal to be considered.
- 7.2.7 The Judiciary, shall hear the parties at the hearing in each other's presence, in the following order:
- i. Those supporting a charge or protest, to give evidence, to call witnesses, to be queried by those defending a charge or protest and to be questioned by the Judiciary and followed by -
  - ii. Those defending a charge or protest, to give evidence, to call witnesses, to be queried by those supporting, and to be questioned by the Judiciary followed by -
  - iii. Those supporting a charge or protest, to answer evidence given under and whom the Judiciary may again question.
- 7.2.8 All parties to the hearing shall then retire while the Judiciary committee considers its finding although the Judiciary may recall any or all of the parties, individually or, together, to amplify or to clarify a matter of evidence.
- 7.2.9 The Judiciary shall then -
- a) In the case of a charged player found guilty of a charge determine a penalty
  - b) In the case of a charged team member found guilty of a charge determine a penalty
- 7.2.10 The Judiciary shall record its finding, made by majority vote and then inform all the parties concerned of its decision.
- 7.2.11 Penalties by way of suspension or suspended sentence shall be until a certain date and any suspension may extend into a subsequent season before termination if necessary.

### **7.3 Appeal Procedure**

- 7.3.1 Any application for leave to appeal against a finding of the Judiciary shall be made **ONLY** on the grounds of new evidence, which was not reasonably available at the time of the hearing.
- 7.3.2 Application on the prescribed form and accompanied by a deposit of \$100.00 shall be lodged with the League Commissioner within 60 minutes of the relevant announcement by the Judiciary.
- 7.3.3 Leave to appeal against a decision shall be given only to the person against whom the finding has been made.
- 7.3.4 If the appeal fails, the appeal fee may not be returned.

## **SECTION 3: NWRL Awards**

The NWRL Awards will be reviewed on an annual basis and dependant on the number of teams entered and the classification spread of all players contesting the league. The League Executive will endeavour to provide the following awards:

### **1 *Champion Team***

- 1.1 The champion team will receive the perpetual trophy and a small trophy as a keepsake.
- 1.2 Each member of the champion team will receive a medal (maximum of 12 medals provided).

### **2 *2nd and 3rd Place***

- 2.1 Awarding of 3rd place awards is dependent on the number of teams entered and will be at the discretion of the League Executive.
- 2.2 Each member of the 2nd and 3rd placed teams will receive a medal (maximum of 12 medals provided to each of 2nd placed and 3rd placed teams).

### **3 *Most Valuable Player***

- 3.1 The most valuable player will receive the perpetual trophy and a small trophy/memento.
- 3.2 The most valuable player is decided by a voting system by the coaches throughout the round robin series. The votes are 1, 2 or 3 for each game; the MVP receives 3 votes. The League Executive tallies the three sets of votes and the player with the most points at the end of the round robin series is the most valuable player.
- 3.3 In the event of a tie the involved players will be ranked as follows to break the tie:
  - i. The player who has played the least minor round games
  - ii. If the players have played the same number of games the award is split.

### **4 *Best New Talent***

- 4.1 Awarding of the Best New Talent Award will be dependent on the number of new players and may be replaced with the Most Improved Award at the discretion of the League Executive.
- 4.2 The player voted as the best new talent will receive the perpetual trophy and a small trophy/memento.
- 4.3 The player who is the best new talent is decided by a voting system. Each team will be asked to vote at each round over the season. They nominate their selections each round and the player receiving most votes across the season will be determined as the winner.

### **5 *All Star Four***

- 5.1 All Star Four is determined by a voting system. Each team will be asked to vote at each round over the season. They nominate their selections each round and the players receiving most votes across the season are determined as the winners.
- 5.2 Should a tie occur, the League Commissioner, National Head Coach and Head Referee will determine the winners.
- 5.3 The most valuable player is eligible to be in the All Star Four.
- 5.4 Total points in the All Star Four must not exceed 8.0.

### **6 *Best Referee***

- 6.1 The referee voted as the best referee will receive a small trophy/memento.

- 6.2 The Best Referee is determined by a voting system. Each team will be asked to vote at each round over the season. They nominate their selections each round and the referee receiving most votes across the season will be determined as the winner.

## **7 Presentations**

- 7.1 All trophies will be presented immediately following the playing of the last game. The presenters will represent the League's sponsors, NWRL and the host organisation.

## **SECTION 4: Other**

### **1 Supporters**

- 1.1 We understand the importance of support for teams when they are travelling away from home and will always encourage supporters' attendance at rounds of the league. We, and the host states will accommodate arrangements for supporters whenever possible; however if it is not possible for supporters to stay or be transported with the teams, they may have to make their own arrangements. The league may charge a small administration fee to cover any additional expenses incurred to facilitate arrangements for supporters (e.g. if an extra vehicle is required to transport them etc).
- 1.2 All costs for supporters (e.g. accommodation, meals, transport etc) must be paid up front and in full to Wheelchair Sports Australia. Bookings will not be made for supporters until payment is received.
- 1.3 Please also note that supporters will not be permitted in the team area during games.
- 1.4 Supporters also include personal carers who are not official members of team staff.

### **2 Sponsorship**

- 2.1 The League Executive and Wheelchair Rugby Australia are governed by the Wheelchair Sports Australia Rules and Regulations relating to sponsorship and may negotiate sponsorships for the league.
- 2.2 NWRL sponsorships will be negotiated, mindful of KNOWN team sponsors and we will endeavour not to negotiate with sponsors that may conflict with existing team sponsor arrangements.
- 2.3 Teams have the right to negotiate team sponsors; however teams must confer with Wheelchair Sports Australia prior to completing sponsorship negotiations. Teams should not negotiate sponsorship arrangements with companies in direct competition with league sponsors. Registering potential team sponsors with WSA prior to entering negotiations will help ensure that conflicts do not arise between NWRL and team Sponsors.
- 2.4 Prior to undertaking any promotional activities relating to the League, all teams are to seek approval from WSA in order to ensure that league sponsors are appropriately recognised.

### **3 General**

- 3.1 All matters not covered by the NWRL Rules and Regulations, the IWRF Rules, or the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Wheelchair Sports Australia Ltd. shall be determined by the League Executive.

# SECTION 5: Appendix

## **Appendix A: NWRL Player Draft**

### **1 Aims of Player Draft:**

- 1.1 The NWRL draft is a means for players who may not gain selection for their home state due to number of players, classification etc, to still have the opportunity to play in the NWRL. It is also a means to allow states who may have low numbers or a deficiency in certain classification the opportunity to add to their playing roster.
- 1.2 It is not the intent of the draft for players to move around from state to state each season. Players should in the first instance be making themselves available for their home state.
- 1.3 It is not the intent of the draft to absolve states of the responsibility to recruit and develop players within their state system.

### **2 Conditions of Player Draft:**

- 2.1 Draft picks should not be used if the state has a home player who is capable of filling the role intended for the draft pick.
- 2.2 Players who nominate for the draft **MUST** play for the team that selects them. If a player wishes to play for a particular state, they should negotiate with that state and make arrangements under the Player Transfer System.
- 2.3 Nomination for the draft **DOES NOT** guarantee a player will be picked up by any state.
- 2.4 States may select a maximum of two (2) draft nominees for their team.
- 2.5 Any Australian Wheelchair Rugby player may nominate for the NWRL Player Draft.

### **3 The Player Draft Process:**

- 3.1 The draft will be held in March each year for the upcoming NWRL season.
- 3.2 By 28 February: Players who wish to nominate for the draft must complete the Player Draft Nomination Form and submit to WSA. Player Draft Nomination Forms **MUST** be signed by an authorised representative of the player's home state Wheelchair Sports Association (or the team state Wheelchair Sports Association that they played for in the preceding season if they were a transfer player).
- 3.3 At least 2 weeks prior to the draft: All states will be circulated the full list of draft nominees.
- 3.4 At least 1 week prior to the draft: States are to notify WSA in writing if they intend to select any draft nominees. States must also nominate the person authorised to make draft selections on their behalf. It is not compulsory for states to select any of the draft nominees.
- 3.5 March: The draft will be conducted by the League Commissioner and at least one other member of the League Executive via teleconference with at least one representative of each state participating in the draft, present.
  - i. The team finishing lowest on the ladder in the preceding season will be given the first draft pick; selections will then rotate in order of states from lowest position to highest. There will be 2 selection rounds.
  - ii. States may select a maximum of two (2) draft nominees for their team.
  - iii. If a state only wishes to select only one (1) draft nominee, they may withdraw from the draft selection process after the first round and will have no further picks.
  - iv. If a state's first and only draft pick is selected by another state first, they may withdraw from the draft selection process at round 1 and have no draft picks.
  - v. Once all states have withdrawn from draft selection, or two (2) rounds of draft selections have been conducted, the draft will be declared finished.
- 3.6 Draft nominees will be advised of the team that has selected them by WSA as soon as possible after the draft has concluded.
- 3.7 States are to include their draft picks on their team lists.

## **Appendix B: NWRL On-Call Pool**

### **1 General**

- 1.1 The On Call Pool is an emergency pool of players that states can apply to the League Executive to use in an extreme medical emergency situation only, should they find themselves unable to field a legal team in any particular round of the NWRL.

### **2 Conditions of On-Call Pool:**

- 2.1 Any unregistered player that has been classified, including players that nominate for the draft and are not picked up by any state, will be given the option to go into the On Call Pool (players may decline this opportunity). Players must complete the On-call pool form.
- 2.2 Each state may apply to the League Executive to use the on call pool for one round per season only.
- 2.3 Any extra costs incurred for the on call player to attend the round will be borne by the state for which they are playing.
- 2.4 All decisions on the use of the on-call pool are made at the discretion of the League Executive and all decisions are final.

### **3 On-Call Pool Process:**

- 3.1 Any state that wishes to utilise the services of an on call player must apply in writing to the NWRL League Executive as soon as possible when they establish this situation. All details in support of their request must be given at this time.
- 3.2 The League Executive will consider the state's circumstances and rule on if they will be permitted to use an on call player.
- 3.3 If approved, the state will be given the list of on call players and asked to identify who they would like to select. The League Executive will then contact this player to identify their availability and willingness to play that round. If they are unable or unwilling to play, the state will be asked to identify another on call player.

## Appendice C: 2010 NWRL Player Draft and On-call Pool Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [print name] wish to nominate for the following

[Please tick all that apply]:

- The 2010 National Wheelchair Rugby League (NWRL) Draft and I agree to play for the team that selects me through the draft.
- The 2010 National Wheelchair Rugby League (NWRL) On-call Pool, should I not be selected by a team through the draft.
- The 2010 National Wheelchair Rugby League (NWRL) On-call Pool only.

I am not currently registered with an NWRL team for 2010.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following details:

<b>Player Details</b>			
<b>First Name</b>		<b>Surname</b>	
<b>Address</b>			
	<b>Post Code</b>		
<b>Day time telephone</b>		<b>Mobile telephone</b>	
<b>Email</b>		<b>Date of birth</b>	
<b>Classification points</b> <i>[please include a copy of your classification card]</i>		<b>Gender</b>	
<b>Other Information</b>			
<b>2009 NWRL team name</b>			
<b>WSA Ltd affiliated organisation</b>		<b>Membership No.</b>	

<b>Release from current team</b>			
We agree to release the above player from our team. He/She has fulfilled all outstanding obligations.			
<b>Endorsed by current team</b> <i>[insert WSA Ltd affiliated state wheelchair organisation]</i>			
<b>Name</b>		<b>Role</b>	
<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	

This form must be completed, signed and returned by 28 February 2010 to Wheelchair Sports Australia, PO Box 4083, Homebush South NSW 2140. Only original signed forms will be accepted and MUST be accompanied by a copy of your classification card.

Office use

Date Received



## Appendix E: Appeal Form

Appeal lodged by or on behalf of .....

According to the rules of this competition, all appeals presented to the game commissioner must include a deposit of AUD \$100. If the appeal fails, the appeal fee may not be returned.

Grounds for lodging appeal

.....

.....

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.....

.....

Signature ..... Date ..... Time .....

### OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Time at which game finished	Time at which appeal was lodged with Game Commissioner

Decision.....

.....

.....

The fee will be:                      Returned                       Not Returned

Chairperson ..... Date ..... Time .....

Appellant notified                      Date ..... Time .....

NWRL Administrator notified                      Date ..... Time.....

## **Appendix F: NWRL Incident/Injury Report Form**

Incidents are to be reported within seven (7) days of the incident.

<b>INCIDENT DETAILS: Game</b>		<b>V</b>	
<b>DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT</b>			
<b>DATE INCIDENT OCCURRED</b>			
<b>TIME INCIDENT OCCURRED</b>			
<b>ACTUAL LOCATION</b>			
<b>ACTION TAKEN</b>			
<b>NAME OF PERSON COMPLETING THIS REPORT:</b>			
<b>POSITION:</b>			
<b>ADDRESS:</b>			
<b>PHONE:</b>			

Please forward to:

NWRL

PO Box 4083

Homebush South, NSW 2140

## Appendix G: Classification Protest Form

Details of person submitting form – (Coach or Team Manager)

Name:	_____
Team:	_____
Position:	_____
Signature:	_____
Date and Time:	_____
Name of Protested Player:	_____
Team:	_____
Classification:	_____

According to the rules of this competition, all protests presented to the Game Commissioner must include a deposit of AUD \$100. If the protest/appeal fails, the appeal fee may not be returned.

### OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Time of classification	Time at which protest/appeal was lodged with Game Commissioner

Decision.....  
 .....

The fee will be:                      Returned                       Not Returned

Chairperson .....                      Date .....                      Time .....

Appellant notified                      Date .....                      Time .....

NWRL Administrator notified                      Date .....                      Time.....