



# Wheelchair Rugby National League Melbourne Invitational

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Friday 28th February - Sunday 2nd March 2025

Caroline Springs Leisure Centre,  
9-19 The Parade, Caroline Springs





Disability Sport & Recreation and Wheelchair Rugby Victoria respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Bunurong Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin Nation and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

We acknowledge that this land always was and always will be Aboriginal land and are committed to our reconciliation journey.



Disability Sport & Recreation and Wheelchair Rugby Victoria welcomes everyone here.

We will endeavour to make a safe and comfortable environment for all to enjoy.

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# Welcome

**Disability Sport and Recreation (DSR) is the governing body for wheelchair rugby in Victoria, dedicated to promoting choice, access, and participation in sport and recreation for people with a disability.**



With a rich history spanning over 60 years, DSR delivers programs at development and elite levels to create pathways for people to engage in the exhilarating sport of wheelchair rugby. We take pride in hosting the Melbourne Invitational, a significant event that brings together emerging and leading wheelchair rugby athletes and officials from across Australia.

This event plays a vital role in the sport's national development goals and provides an opportunity for Victorians to witness high quality competition featuring the best wheelchair rugby athletes in the country. Supported by Protect, Victorian State Government and Wheelchair Rugby Australia, the Melbourne Invitational is recognised as a world class event.

We extend a huge thank you to everyone involved in making this event possible, including administrators, volunteers, officials, teams and supporters.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Tesone".

**Liz Tesone**

Chief Executive Officer

# Fixture

**Friday 28 February**


**Day 1**

**9:30am**

**Court 1**  Rolling Wildfires **vs**  University of Queensland

**Court 2** Division 2 Team 1 vs 2

**11:00am**

**Court 1**  Sydney University **vs**  Melbourne RUFC

**Court 2**  Box Hill RUFC **vs**  Bond University

**12:30pm**

**Court 2** Division 2 Team 2 vs 3

**1:30pm**

**Court 1**  Box Hill RUFC **vs**  University of Queensland

**2:00pm**

**Court 2**  Melbourne RUFC **vs**  Rolling Wildfires

**3.00pm**

**Court 1**  Bond University **vs**  Sydney University

**3.30pm**

**Court 2** Division 2 Team 1 vs 3

## Saturday 1 March

## Day 2

9:30am

**Court 1**  Rolling Wildfires **vs**  Box Hill RUFC

**Court 2** Division 2 Team 1 vs 2

11:00am



**Court 1**  Melbourne RUFC **vs**  Bond University

**Court 2**  Sydney University **vs**  University of Queensland

12:30pm

**Court 2** Division 2 Team 2 vs 3

1:30pm

**Court 1**  Sydney University **vs**  Box Hill RUFC

2:00pm

**Court 2**  Rolling Wildfires **vs**  Bond University

3.00pm

**Court 1**  Melbourne RUFC **vs**  University of Queensland

3.30pm

**Court 2** Division 2 Team 1 vs 3



**Sunday 2 March**

**Day 3**

**9:00am**

**Court 2** Division 2 Semi final 2nd vs 3rd (6 min quarters)



**9:30am**

**Court 1**  Melbourne RUFC **vs**  Box Hill RUFC

**10:00am**

**Court 2**  Sydney University **vs**  Rolling Wildfires

**11:00am**

**Court 1**  University of Queensland **vs**  Bond University

**11:30am**

**Court 2** Division 2 final (6 min quarters)

# Division 1 Team lists - Victoria



**Melbourne  
Rugby  
Union  
Football  
Club**

Player	Class
Jayden Warn	3.0
Hayden BARTON-COOTES	3.0
Jason ELLERY	2.0
Andrew HARRISON	2.0
Jake HOWE	1.0
Will TAHENY	1.0
<b>Coach</b> Andrew Harrison	
<b>Manager</b> Willeke Walsh	
<b>Mechanic</b> Lily Pridham	



**Box Hill  
RUFC**

Player	Class
Jacinta Richardson	3.5F
Robyn Lambird	3.0F
Keenan Alexander	2.5
Shae Graham	2.5F
Antonio Vecchio	2.0
Maia Marshall	2.0F
<b>Coach</b> Jason Lees	
<b>Manager</b> Willeke Walsh	
<b>Mechanic</b> Lily Pridham	



# Team lists - New South Wales



**Sydney  
University**

Player	Class
AJ Holloway	3.5
Jayden Jackson	2.0
Ben Leudais	2.0
Kadir Faki	2.0
James Mcquillan	0.5
Tye Angland	0.5
<b>Coach</b> Lewis Quinn	
<b>Manager</b> Zac Field	
<b>Mechanic</b> Courtney Younan	



**Rolling  
Wildfires**

Player	Class
Cooper Blackwood	3.0
Dylan Streller	2.0
Rob Hewitt	2.0
Richard Voris	1.5
Ash Treseder	1.5
Peter Campbell-Rodgers	1.0
Ben Fawcett	0.5
<b>Coach</b> Richard Voris	
<b>Manager</b> Zac Field	
<b>Mechanic</b> Mike Voris	

# Team lists - Queensland



**University  
of  
Queensland**

Player	Class
Chris Bond	3.5
Josh Hose	3.0
Josh Nicholson	2.0
Cam Whittaker	2.0
Matthew Thompson	2.0
Dan Horton	1.5
Damien Mortaud	0.5
Ryan Boyd	0.5

**Coach** Chris Bond

**Manager** Natalie Charlton

**Mechanic** Blair Thompson



**Bond  
University**

Player	Class
Brayden Foxley-Conolly	3.5
Ben Newton	3.0
Conor Tweedy	2.5
Lilliana Prucha	2.0F
Tai Martin-Page	1.5
Mick Ozanne	0.5
Emilie Miller	0.5F

**Coach** Ben Newton

**Manager** Emilie Gollan

**Mechanic** Blair Thompson

F denotes female classification.

# Division 2 Team lists

## Team 1

Player	Class
Jack Watson	3.0
Natalie Millar	3.5F
Alby Everitt	3.0
Jacob Cremin Darkin	2.5
Cameron Wales	1.5
Scott Mackay	1.5
Christian Brackley	0.5
Brydee Moore	1.0F

**Coach** Shane Brand

## Team 2

Player	Class
Hamish Baker	3.0
Ben Owens	3.0
Jett Johnson	2.5
Zak Robertson	2.5
Sean Senbel-Lynch	1.5
Caleb Crowden	2.0
Dane Kinder	1.0
Jacob Walsh	1.0

**Coaches** Dane Kinder/  
Conor Tweedy

## Team 3

Player	Class
Benjamin Chalker	3.5
Rhiannon Bellette	3.5F
Keaton Rennie-Kay	3.5
Dani Hale	3.5F
Hamish Cook	1.5
Naz Erdem	0.5
Armaan Dhillon	0.5

**Coach** Naz Erdem

F denotes female classification.



## What is wheelchair rugby?

Wheelchair rugby is a fast paced, tactical game for people with a physical disability that affects at least three of their limbs.

Since its inclusion to the Paralympic Games in 2000, wheelchair rugby's popularity has taken off worldwide.

Played on a hardwood basketball court over four 8-minute quarters, two teams battle it out using their specially designed wheelchairs to crash, block and trap their opponents in an attempt to stop them from scoring a goal, which is achieved when a player crosses the opposition's goal line with possession of the ball.

Despite its intensity, wheelchair rugby is a family friendly, accessible and all-inclusive sport that everyone can play. The classification system allows players with a wide range of functionality to compete on a level playing field.

Exciting for both players and spectators alike, it incorporates elements of several sports including ice hockey style checking, the ball movement of basketball, the scoring of rugby and the use of a volleyball.

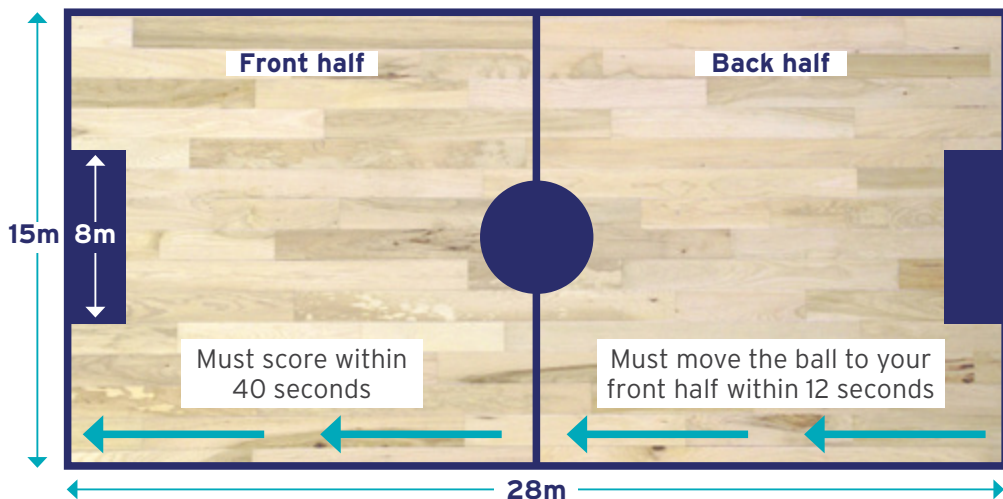
# Rules

Wheelchair rugby is played on a regulation 28 x 15m basketball court with key areas at the end lines and 8m-wide goal line marked by cones. Teams consist of up to 12 players: four players on court, with the maximum on-court classification points totaling 8.0.

A goal is scored when two wheels of a player's wheelchair cross the goal line while in possession and in control of the ball. A team has 40 seconds to score once the ball goes into play.

Players with the ball are not permitted to touch the floor with any part of their body or wheelchair (except for wheels and anti-tip device), and a player must dribble or pass the ball at least once every 8 seconds.

If your team has the ball, you cannot remain in the opposition's key area for more than 8 seconds and if you get control of the ball in your back court area, your team has 12 seconds to advance the ball to your front court. The ball cannot return to your back court (the exception being if the opposition touches the ball).



The ball must stay in-bounds. A player is determined in-bounds if their four wheels are inside the court boundaries.

Each team has 3 time-outs of 60 seconds per game half. Only the coach or assistant coach may request a time-out. This can be requested at any time but will only be granted once the ball is dead. If an equipment time-out is called due to equipment malfunction (burst tyres are common), the affected team has one minute to correct the problem.

Some of the fouls a referee may call during a game: Charging, Four-in-the-Key, Leaving the Court, Holding, Pushing, Contact-Before-Whistle, Out-and-In, Illegal-Use-of-Hands, Spinning. There are also technical fouls and offending players can lose possession of the ball, serve time in the penalty box or be disqualified.

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## Equipment

### Offensive chair

This chair will generally be used by your primary ball handlers. Its slim build allows it to be more agile against blockers and move quickly.



### Defensive chair

This chair will generally be used by your blockers. The trade-off in agility is made up for with grill extending out of the front of the chair. This allows the blocker to lock onto other chairs.



# Classification

Wheelchair rugby players have a disability which affects arms and legs. Every player is classified based on their disability and is given a points value ranging from 0.5 (lowest) to 3.5 (highest).

The following is a very basic description of each class level and what the role would be in a wheelchair rugby team.

**Class 0.5** = Main role is as blocker, not a major ball handler. Bats ball using “underhand volleyball pass” for longer range pass or for shorter range pass uses “scoop pass” with the ball forward to the side uses a two-hand toss.

**Class 1.0** = Blocker, may in-bound ball, not a major ball handler. Forearm or wrist catch, and weak chest pass or forearm pass.

**Class 1.5** = Blocker and also may be occasional ball handler. Increased shoulder strength and stability allows for more effective and efficient pushing and ball handling skills.

**Class 2.0** = Increasing role as ball handler, as strong and stable shoulders allows for good pushing speed on court. Effective chest pass with control over moderate distance, but limited ball security against defense during passing.

**Class 2.5** = Ball handler and fairly fast playmaker with good pushing speed. Functional grip is used to advantage on the pushrim when challenged. Often can perform one-handed overhead pass, but limited accuracy and distance because of finger strength.

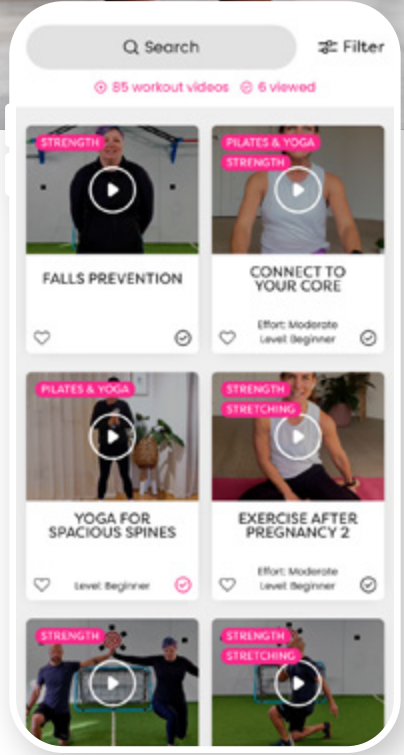
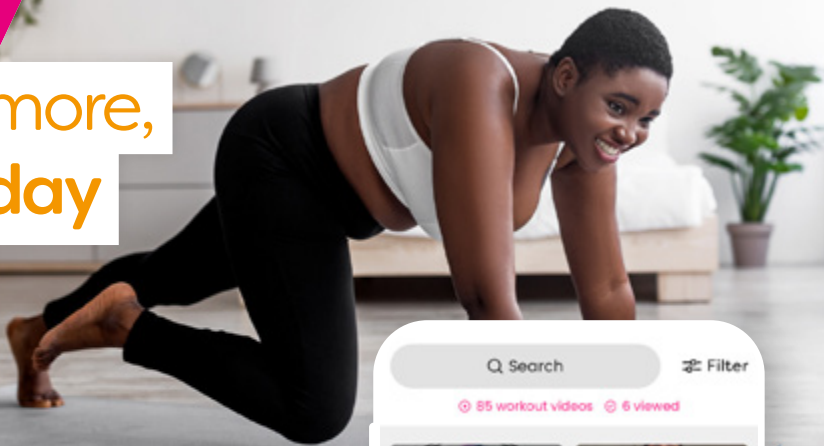


**Class 3.0** = Very good ball handler and fast playmaker, gripping wheelchair rim increasing pushing speed. May have some trunk control giving better stability and with function in fingers, can control ball in varying planes of movement for passing, dribbling, catching and protecting the ball.

**Class 3.5** = Often primary ball handler and fastest playmaker. Because of hand and trunk function, usually has excellent ball control with controlled one hand passing for distance and excellent ball security during passing and receiving.



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minutes

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The 2025 Wheelchair Rugby National League  
Melbourne Invitational is proudly supported by



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The event is presented by  
Disability Sport & Recreation



For more information about how to get involved  
in Wheelchair Rugby, visit:

[www.dsr.org.au/wheelchair-rugby](http://www.dsr.org.au/wheelchair-rugby)