

Wheelchair Rugby National League Melbourne Invitational

Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd March 2024

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.

Contents

Welcome	4
What is wheelchair rugby?	5
Fixture	6
Team lists	9
Rules	12
Equipment	13
Classification	14
Supporters	16

Add us on your socials!



Instagram

@disabilitysportandrec
@wheelchair_rugby_victoria



Facebook

@DisabilitySportAndRecreation
@WheelchairRugbyVic



LinkedIn

@Disability Sport And Recreation



YouTube

@disabilitysportrec

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 Melton City Council, the Melbourne Invitational is recognised as a world class event and is sure to generate excitement as our Australian Steelers continue on their journey to compete at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games and beyond.

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



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. Australia is currently ranked no.4 in the world by the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation and Victoria proudly fielded six of the 12 players who won competed at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games.

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.

For more information on classification and the basic rules of the game, turn to the back of this guide.

Fixture

Friday 1st March

Day 1

10:30am

Court 1



vs



Melbourne RUFC **vs** Bond University

Court 2

Wheelchair Rugby Australia Division 2 Match

12:00pm

Court 1



vs



Sydney University **vs** Box Hill RUFC

2:00pm

Court 1



vs



Melbourne RUFC **vs** University of Queensland

3:00pm

Court 2



vs



Sydney University **vs** Bond University

4.30pm

Court 1



vs



Box Hill RUFC **vs** University of Queensland

Court 2

Wheelchair Rugby Australia Division 2 Match

Saturday 2nd March

Day 2

10:00am

Court 1



vs



University of
Queensland

vs

Sydney University

Court 2

Wheelchair Rugby Australia Division 2 Match

11:30am

Court 1



vs



Box Hill RUFC

vs

Bond University

2:00pm

Court 1



vs



Sydney University vs Melbourne RUFC

3:00pm

Court 2



vs



Bond University

vs

University of
Queensland

4.30pm

Court 1



vs



Box Hill RUFC

vs

Melbourne RUFC

Court 2

Wheelchair Rugby Australia Division 2 Match



Sunday 3rd March

Day 3

9:30am

Court 1

3rd place vs 4th place

Court 2

Wheelchair Rugby Australia Division 2 Match

11:00am

Court 1

1st place vs 2nd place

Team lists - Victoria



Melbourne Rugby Union Football Club

Player	Class
1 Jayden Warn	3
2 Taye Williams	2.5
3 Kadir Faki	2
4 Justin Goh	2
5 Shane Brand	1.5
6 Naz Erdem	0.5
7 Scott Mackay	0.5
8 Christian Brackley	0.5

Coach David Wood

Manager Sophie Milton

Mechanic Lily Pridham



Box Hill RUFC

Player	Class
1 Jack Watson	3
2 Robyn Lambird	3.0F
3 Shae Graham	2.5F
4 Antonio Vecchio	2
5 Dylan Streller	2
6 Sean Harper	1
7 Ben Fawcett	0.5
8 Anthony Gray	0.5

Coach Andrew Harrison

Manager Sophie Milton

Mechanic Lily Pridham

Team lists - New South Wales



**Sydney
University**

Player	Class
1 Andrew Edmondson	2
2 Ben Leudais	2
3 Jayden Jackson	2
4 Jake Field	2
5 Richard Voris	1.5
6 Tai Martin-Page	1.5

Coach Dick Voris

Manager Zac Conacher-Smith

Mechanic Courtney Younan



Team lists - Queensland



**University
of
Queensland**

Player	Class
1 Matt McShane	3.5**
2 Brodie Healy	2
3 Josh Nicholson	2
4 Cam Whittaker	2
5 Dan Horton	1.5
6 Ryan Boyd	0.5
7 Damien Mortaud	0.5

Coach Andy Phillips

Manager Natalie Charlton

Mechanic Blair Thompson

3.5** = 4.0 athlete



**Bond
University**

Player	Class
1 Brayden Foxley-Conolley	3.5
2 Luke Matthews	2.5
3 Ella Sabljak	2.5F
4 Lilliana Prucha	2.0F
5 Matt Thompson	2
6 Darren Cuomo	1.5
7 Emilie Miller	0.5F
8 Michael Ozanne	0.5

Coach Ben Newton

Manager Emilie Gollan

Mechanic Blair Thompson

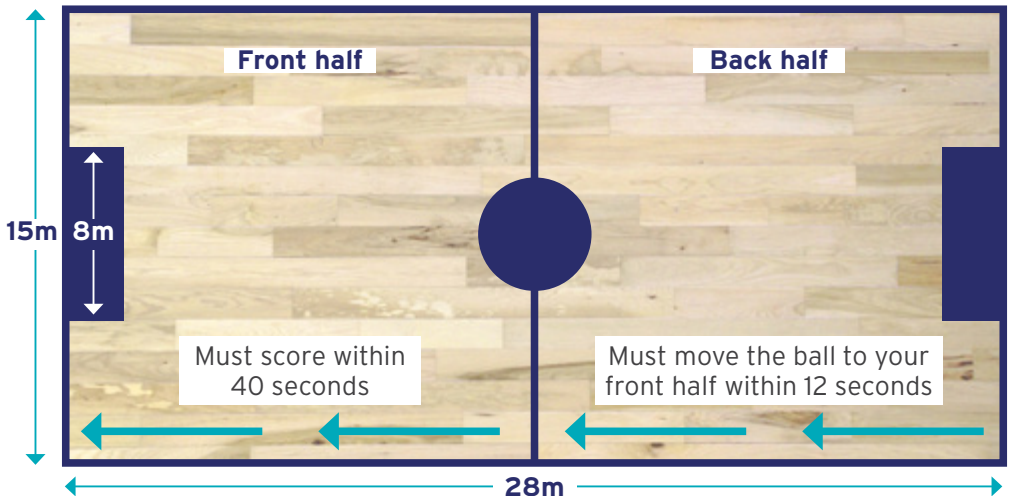
Rules

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 10 seconds.

If your team has the ball, you cannot remain in the opposition's key area for more than 10 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 4 x player time-outs and 2 x coach time-outs. Either team may call for a time-out when the ball is dead. When the ball is in play, only the team with possession can call it. If a 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.

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 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.

The 2024 Wheelchair Rugby National League
Melbourne Invitational is proudly supported by



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