

NAWBL Classification

Updated 5/29/2021

Why Classification?

The Purpose of classification is to provide an equal and inclusive opportunity for all. The classification of athletes is a fundamental aspect of wheelchair basketball and underpins the inclusive nature of the sport, allowing fair and equitable participation

NAWBL Classification

The NAWBL will observe the international classification system. 1.0-4.5.

1.0 -4.5 all women players playing in the coed league will be classed down a half a point in all tiers except for the women's tier.

Women 1.0 playing in the coed league can drop to .5.

The NAWBL will allow ab players to play. These athletes will be considered a 4.5

The Jr tier will use the same classification system as adults.

The women's tier will use the 1.0-4.5 system

The Jr 8.5' tier will not have a classification system

All Tiers except for the Jr 8.5' will have a 15 point system on the floor.

The Jr. 8.5 Tier can only have 2 ABs on the court at one time. Developing teams with a minimum number of players with disabilities can fill roster with Able bodied players for team development. However a team may not qualify for postseason with recorded games that have more than 2 ABs on the floor.

Players over 50 will receive a .5 reduction in points (No player can have a 0 Classification the lowest point will be .5)

Players over 60 will receive a full point reduction. (No player can have a 0 Classification the lowest point will be .5)

All female players playing in the coed tiers will receive a full point reduction. Female players over 50 and 60 may combine the reduction. Example: a female 4.5 over 60 may play as a 2.5. (No player can have a 0 Classification the lowest point will be .5)

Rationale for allowing the Abled bodied players to play:

This will open the game for inclusive play. It will also give all disabled veterans an opportunity to be included in the sport of wheelchair basketball.

All wheelchair basketball players are assigned a 'Classification' from 1-4.5 based on their functional ability; non-disabled athletes and athletes who do not have an eligible impairment would be assigned a classification of 4.5. Below is a table which characterises the functional ability of each classification.

| Class | Characteristics |
|--------------|---|
| 1.0 | Little or no trunk movement in any plane. Balance in both forward and sideways directions is significantly impaired, and players rely on their arms to return them to the upright position when unbalanced. No active trunk rotation. |
| 2.0 | Some partially controlled trunk movement in the forward direction, but no controlled sideways movement. Has upper trunk rotation but poor lower trunk rotation. |
| 3.0 | Good trunk movement in the forward direction to the floor and up again without arm support. Has good trunk rotation but no controlled sideways movement. |
| 4.0 | Normal trunk movement but has difficulty with controlled sideways movement to one side, usually due to limitations in one lower limb. |
| 4.5 | Normal trunk movement in all directions and able to reach the side with no limitations |

Recording

Classifications will be recorded as if all athletes were playing in the coed tiers. If and when a woman's division is determined the women will be given two classifications.

Athlete Classification

- 1) Three classification status designations are used for NAWBL for players:
 - a. "P" – a "proposed" classification status provided by a Certified Team reviewer for a new player.
 - b. "A" – an "approved" classification status provided when the proposed "P" classification is confirmed by two other team reviewers.
 - c. "C" - A certified classification status provided when an NAWBL classification panel makes a final classification determination.

The NAWBL will recognize proposed (P) classifications during the first two years of play. By 2024 the league will have a solid process for Certifying all athletes.