



ENGLISH POOL ASSOCIATION
RECOGNISED BY THE SPORTS COUNCIL AS THE
GOVERNING BODY FOR POOL IN ENGLAND

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Wheelchair
Classification

WHEELCHAIR PLAYERS CLASSIFICATION.

1. Classification.

It is acknowledged there are numerous levels of mobility for those players competing in wheelchairs. These may range from a singular restriction to a combination of restrictions.

- a: Those players with hand or arm disabilities, who cannot make or sustain a functional bridge while playing a shot.
- b: Those players who can make and sustain a functional bridge but who have no stability and balance due to a lack of functional trunk muscles. These players support themselves at the table with their bridge hand.
- c: All other players with a good to normal balance meeting the criteria for limited disability.
- d: For the purpose of these rules 'Limited Disability' means a significant disability that prevents a player from playing Pool standing up.

2. Playing Positions.

- a: Players must keep both feet on the wheelchair footplates when playing a shot. (Exceptions = short limbs or amputees).
- b: Players fitted with prosthetic limbs must adhere to 2.a.
- c: Players must have at least one buttock in contact with the wheelchair cushion when playing a shot.
- d: Feet must be kept clear of the floor: should the feet or footplate touch the floor it will be deemed a foul.
- e: Below the knee strapping in allowed to keep the feet on the footplates. However, strapping above the waist is not allowed except for medical reasons when it will be taken into account for classification purpose.
- f: Players are not permitted to use their arms to pull themselves forward across the table in order to play a shot.

3. Playing Aids.

- a: All standard playing aids (rests- spiders- & EPA endorsed accessories) are permitted as long as they are only used for the purpose of steadying & supporting the cue.

4. Time Limits.

- a: Standard time: wheelchair players will be allowed - 70 seconds - to play a shot in wheelchair competitions
- b: Players requiring a rest or other recognised accessory may call for a 'time out' = 3 minutes. The playing time will re-start when the equipment is placed on the table, Referee/ Time keeper must take note of this variation.

5. Wheelchair Specifications.

- a: It is acknowledged that due to the numerous levels of mobility and individual requirements for those players using wheelchairs, they may vary in design and dimensions.
- b: The standard maximum cushion height for a competitor's wheelchair shall be 65cm.

6. Technical Committee & Exemptions.

- a: In order to assess the levels of disability of a player the E.P.A shall take advice from their Disability Sub Committee.
- b: Having assessed the limitations of a player the Disability Sub Committee may on consideration of circumstances issue exemption certificates to players in relation to specific sections of these rules.

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