

Rule 14: Wheelchair and Frame Running Requirements

(Sport Classes T32-34, T51-54 and T71-72)

1. General Wheelchair Requirements:

- a) At all WPA Recognised Competitions (see Part B - 3.1.2) the wheelchair shall have two (2) large rear wheels and one (1) small front wheel.
- b) All wheelchairs must have a functional braking system for safety purposes.
- c) No mechanical gears or levers are allowed for the purpose of propelling the wheelchair.
- d) The use of mirrors is not permitted in wheelchair track or road races.
- e) In all races the athlete must be able to turn the front wheel(s) manually left and right for steering purposes. Only hand operated mechanical steering devices are allowed.
- f) The use of fairings or similar devices for the purpose of improving aerodynamic performance is not permitted.
- g) No element of the wheelchair or its attachments or accessories may incorporate energy storing capacity (e.g., elasticity) for the purpose of enhancing performance.
- h) Devices attached to the wheelchair or athlete shall comply with Rule 7.4d (assistance) and shall not have the capability to communicate except to the athlete.

Note: Unless approved by WPA and the Technical Delegate, no devices with transmission function for the purpose of event presentation or broadcasting shall be permitted at WPA Recognised Competitions.

2. Wheelchair Frame Requirements:

- a) No part of the frame of the wheelchair, or any attachments to it, shall extend forward beyond the hub of the front wheel nor backwards beyond the rearmost vertical plane of the rear wheels (including tyres). Additionally, the width of the frame, and any of its attachments, shall not be wider than the inclined plane of the pushing rims (as outlined in Figure 4).

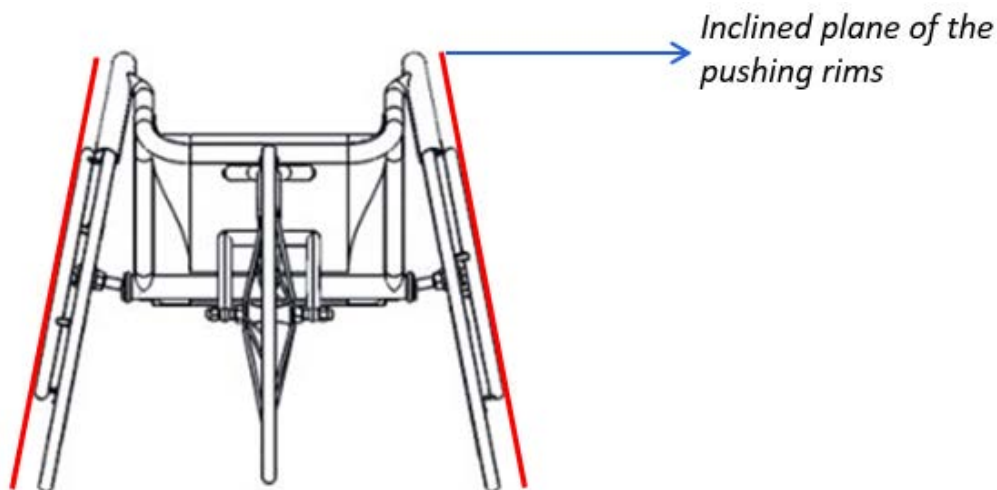


Figure 4 – Inclined plane of the pushing rims

COMMENT: Call Room Judges will inspect all wheelchairs to ensure no attachments are outside of the inclined plane of the pushing rims.

- b) The maximum height from the ground to the bottom of the wheelchair frame shall be 50 cm.
- c) The frame structure must be made of a material which provides sufficient stability and stiffness for safety purposes.
- d) For the purpose of seat positioning, the frame structure shall incorporate a seat.
- e) The use of Sideguards may be added to protect the athlete from the wheels and shall be in compliance with Rule 14.2 (a).

3. Wheel and Push-rim Requirements:

- a) The maximum diameter of the large wheel including the inflated tyre shall not exceed 70 cm.
- b) The maximum diameter of the small wheel including the inflated tyre shall not exceed 50 cm.
- c) Only one plain, round, push-rim is allowed for each large wheel.

Note (i): This rule also applies for persons requiring a single arm drive wheelchair.

Note (ii): For T32/33/51/52 athletes who may experience a limitation in their ability to stabilise the wrist during pushing, a modification shall be allowed so that a push-rim and wheel disk may be fused together and incorporated into the racing wheel. No other modification that would defeat the general intent of Rule 14.3 is allowed.

Note (iii): No part of the athlete's body shall be strapped to the push-rim or to the wheel.

Note (iv): All athletes competing in racing wheelchairs must only propel their racing chair through the pushing action exerted by the athletes' arm(s). The lower extremities (legs and feet), or any relevant prosthesis, are not permitted to touch the ground so as to propel the racing chair or stabilise it at the start.

4. Wheelchairs will be measured and inspected in the Call Room and once inspected shall not be taken from the competition area before the start of the event. Wheelchairs may be re-examined by the relevant Referee or other officials before or after the event on or off the field of play.
5. It is the responsibility of athletes to ensure that their wheelchair conforms to the requirements stipulated above. No event shall be delayed while an athlete makes adjustments to their wheelchair. If an athlete fails to comply with this Rule, then the athlete will not be permitted to start the event and shall be shown in the results as "DNS" in accordance with Rule 6.16.
6. If the Relevant Referee believes that a wheelchair and/or the athlete using it represent a safety risk they shall be authorised to exclude the athlete and/or wheelchair from an event.

Note: For safety, athletes should secure their lower limb(s) so they don't fall to the ground and cause injury.

COMMENT: It is important to note that there can be no devices attached to the wheelchair that can communicate or anything that gives the athlete any unfair advantage over other athletes in the event.

Wheelchairs are measured and inspected in the Call Room, however for major competitions such as World Championships, Paralympic Games and Regional Games a courtesy pre-check of the racing wheelchairs for conformity should be conducted, including a check against the relevant advertising regulations of the competition.

What to look for when checking a wheelchair for conformance to current requirements.

It is advisable to use a stick or metre stick with marks at 50cm and 70cm as these are the two key dimensions of importance.

Measure the wheel diameter by placing the “0” end of the measuring stick on the ground beside the wheel and measure parallel to the wheel. The diameter of the smaller wheel must not exceed 50cm while the diameter of the larger wheel(s) must not exceed 70cm. If the tyres are not inflated, they can still be checked, but advice given to the athlete or coach could include that it has not yet passed pre-check but will be checked again in the Call Room in any event.

The same measuring stick can be used to ensure that the maximum height from the ground to the bottom of the wheelchair does not exceed a height of 50cm.

While there is no issue with the overall length of the wheelchair, no part may extend beyond the wheel(s) in the front or rear of the wheels. The best way to measure for this is to move the chair to a wall. Wheel the chair backwards toward the wall; if the tyres touch the wall rather than the seating frame, then the chair is acceptable.

The chair may also have other requirements, such as having a braking system and steering capacity which also need to be checked at the pre-check.

Call Room Judges shall ensure that the racing wheelchair does not have any device on it which can “communicate” to anyone, other than the athlete, in accordance with Rule 14.1 (h).

Regardless of whether a wheelchair is checked as part of a pre-check, it must be checked in the Call Room and with the athlete in the chair.

It should be noted that ITOs as well as other Technical Officials involved in a pre-check of wheelchairs need to be completely familiar with this rule as well as the requirement to check the wheelchairs in the Call Room.

COMMENT: At competitions without a warm-up track or where the warm-up track is either not available or not of the same radius of the competition track, the Technical Delegate may consider permitting a single warm-up lap (It may not be a complete lap) for athletes in classes T32-34 and T51-T54 competing in 200m races and above to set their wheelchair compensators, provided that this does not create conflicts or significantly impact the competition schedule.

Frame Running Requirements

(Sport Classes T71-72)

7. General Frame Running Requirements:

- a) At all WPA Recognised Competitions (see Part B - 3.1.2) the Running frame shall have a support saddle, a body support plate, handlebars, two (2) rear wheels and one (1) front wheel.
- b) All Running frames must have a functional braking system for safety purposes.
- c) No mechanical gears or levers are allowed for the purpose of propelling the Running frame.
- d) The use of mirrors is not permitted in Frame Running events.
- e) In all races the athlete must be able to turn the front wheel left and right for steering purposes. Only hand operated mechanical steering handlebars are allowed.
- f) The use of fairings or similar devices for the purpose of improving aerodynamic performance of the athlete is not permitted.
- g) No element of the Running frame or its attachments accessories may incorporate energy storing capacity (e.g., elasticity) for the purpose of enhancing performance.
- h) Devices attached to the Running frame or athlete shall comply with Rule 7.4 (d) (assistance) and shall not have the capability to communicate except to the athlete.

Note: Unless approved by WPA and the Technical Delegate, no devices with transmission function for the purpose of event presentation or broadcasting shall be permitted at WPA Recognised Competition.

8. Running Frame Requirements:

- a) No part of the Running frame, or any attachments to it, shall extend forward beyond the hub of the front wheel nor backwards beyond the rearmost vertical plane of the rear wheels (including tyres). Additionally, the width of the frame, and any of its attachments, shall not be wider than the length between the rear wheel hubs, excluding the rear wheels.
- b) The maximum length of the Running frame shall be 200cm, and the maximum width

shall be 95cm including the tyres.

- c) The Frame structure must be made of a material which provides sufficient stability and stiffness for safety purposes.
- d) For the purpose of seat positioning, the Frame structure shall incorporate a saddle.
- e) Note: The saddle may have other shapes than the traditional type of race cycling saddle.
- f) For the purpose of athlete's stability, the frame structure shall incorporate a Body support plate.

Note: For safety, the athlete may be strapped to the body support plate with a belt or an orthopaedic brace, to prevent the athlete from falling to the ground and causing injury. Hands may also be strapped to the handlebar.

9. Wheel Requirements:

- a) The maximum diameter of all wheels including the inflated tyre shall not exceed 72 cm.
- b) The rear wheels may incorporate a wheel guard on the inside only.

10. The Running frame shall comply with Rule 14.4 and Rule 14.6 for measurement and inspection purposes.

11. It is the responsibility of the athlete to ensure that their Running frame conforms to the requirements stipulated above. No event shall be delayed while adjustments to a Running frame are being done. If an athlete fails to comply with this Rule, then the athlete will not be permitted to start the event and shall be shown in the results as "DNS" in accordance with Rule 6.16.

12. For all athletes competing in Frame Running Events T71-72, they shall propel their Running frame with their feet and can do so forwards or backwards;