

= Great Britain at the 2008 Summer Paralympics =

Great Britain competed at the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing , People 's Republic of China . Great Britain sent a delegation of around 400 , of which 212 were athletes , to compete in eighteen sports at the Games . The team was made up of athletes from the whole United Kingdom ; athletes from Northern Ireland , who may elect to hold Irish citizenship under the pre @-@ 1999 article 2 of the Irish constitution , are able to be selected to represent either Great Britain or Ireland at the Paralympics . Additionally some British overseas territories compete separately from Britain in Paralympic competition .

Britain finished second in the medal table , behind host nation China , winning 42 gold medals and 102 total medals , equalling the team 's position in the medal table at the 2004 Athens Games . The number of medals won was an increase on the 94 medals and 35 golds in Athens . The team was the most successful in two decades , with 80 different athletes winning at least one medal . The United Kingdom was the next host of the Summer Paralympics , holding the 2012 Games in London .

= = Disability classifications = =

Every participant at the Paralympics has their disability grouped into one of five disability categories ; amputation , the condition may be congenital or sustained through injury or illness ; cerebral palsy ; wheelchair athletes , there is often overlap between this and other categories ; visual impairment , including blindness ; Les autres , any physical disability that does not fall strictly under one of the other categories , for example dwarfism or multiple sclerosis . Each Paralympic sport then has its own classifications , dependent upon the specific physical demands of competition . Events are given a code , made of numbers and letters , describing the type of event and classification of the athletes competing . Some sports , such as athletics , divide athletes by both the category and severity of their disabilities , other sports , for example swimming , group competitors from different categories together , the only separation being based on the severity of the disability .

= = Medallists = =

The following British competitors won medals at the games , all dates are September 2008 . In the ' by discipline ' sections below , medallists ' names are in bold .

? Shelly Woods was initially awarded the silver medal in the athletics , women 's 5000 m T54 . However a re @-@ run of the race was ordered by the International Paralympic Committee after the result was protested .

= = = Multiple medallists = = =

The following competitors won multiple medals at the 2008 Paralympic Games .

= = Targets = =

In July 2008 , UK Sport , the body responsible for the distribution of National Lottery funding to elite sport , published its expectations for the Games . It identified a 112 " stretch " medal target and expected to win 95 of them , including around 35 gold medals in order to finish second in the medal table .

The athletes met the expectations of UK Sport for total medals , gold medals and medal table position , finishing second behind hosts China with 42 gold and 102 total medals . It should be noted that the medals claimed were not all ones that had been targeted , the team fell short of targets in some sports whilst it exceeded them in others ; out of the fifteen sports set a target eight succeeded in meeting them .

= = Archery = =

Great Britain 's archery squad for the Games included twelve athletes . In all , four archery medals , two gold , one silver and one bronze , were won by British archers , which meant that they finished second in the archery medal table . John Stubbs , a former England disabled cricketer , set a new world record score of 691 in the ranking round on the route to victory in the men 's individual compound open . In the equivalent women 's event Danielle Brown beat compatriot , and eventual bronze medallist , Mel Clarke before going on to win the gold .

Men

Women

Legend : WR ? World record ; W ? Won ; L ? Lost ; N / A ? Round not applicable for the event ;

= = Athletics = =

The GB Paralympic team included thirty ? five competitors in the sport of athletics , amongst them reigning champions Kenny Churchill , Danny Crates , Daniel Greaves and Stephen Miller . David Weir failed in his attempts to win five gold medals at the Games after suffering from a virus , but did win four medals ; two gold , one silver , one bronze ; before pulling out of his final event .

British participants were involved in a number of controversies regarding the reallocation of medals during the Games . Shelly Woods was initially awarded the silver medal in the women 's 5000 m T54 , but a rerun was ordered by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) after the Australian , US and Swiss teams protested the result because six competitors were involved in a crash on the penultimate lap . When the race was rerun Woods won the bronze medal . David Weir believed he had won the gold medal in the men 's 800 m T54 but a rerun of the race was ordered after it was discovered that the Australian silver medallist , Kurt Fearnley , had begun the race in the wrong lane . Following a letter from Fearnley and the Australian authorities to the IPC , which asked that the result not be overturned in the spirit of sportsmanship , the rerun was cancelled and Weir 's medal reinstated . Discus thrower Rebecca Chin was originally awarded the silver medal in the women 's F37 ? 38 , but her classification was challenged and Chin was deemed ineligible for the event , stripped of her medal , and her results were erased . The decision was particularly controversial given that Chin had already been assessed earlier in the Games whilst she competed in the women 's F37 ? 38 shot put final .

Men ? Track

Men ? Field

Women ? Track

Women ? Field

* Originally awarded the silver medal but stripped of medal and results following a challenge to her classification .

Key

= = Wheelchair basketball = =

Britain qualified teams in both the men 's and women 's events . The women 's team finished eighth out of ten competing teams , whilst the men , matching their achievement at 2004 Athens Games , won the bronze medal .

= = = Men = = =

Pool B

Legend : PTS ? Points ; Pld ? Played ; W ? Games won ; D ? Games drawn ; L ? Games lost ; PF ? Points for ; PA ? Points against ; PD ? Points difference ; ? Qualified for quarterfinals ;