

= Great Britain at the 2010 Winter Paralympics =

Great Britain competed at the 2010 Winter Paralympics held in Vancouver , Canada . 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 . Kelly Gallagher became the first Northern Irish athlete to compete in the Winter Paralympics by taking part in the alpine skiing discipline . Additionally some British overseas territories compete separately from Britain in Paralympic competition . In order to be eligible to take part in the Games athletes had to have a disability that fell into one of the five Paralympics disability categories .

Great Britain fielded twelve athletes in total ; a team of five in wheelchair curling , and seven athletes in alpine skiing . The team failed to win a medal for the first time since the 2002 Games , when just two British athletes competed , and although several of the squad finished with top ten results , the overall outcome was described as disappointing . Kelly Gallagher came closest to a medal , finishing fourth in the giant slalom for visually impaired athletes . Britain will be hosting the next Games when London hosts the 2012 Summer Paralympics .

= = Disability classification = =

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 . Events with " B " in the code are for athletes with visual impairment , codes LW1 to LW9 are for athletes who stand to compete and LW10 to LW12 are for athletes who compete sitting down . For the 2010 Paralympics alpine skiing events grouped athletes in to sitting , standing and visually impaired . In biathlon events , which contain a target shooting component , blind and visually impaired athletes are able to compete through the use of acoustic signals , whose signal intensity varies dependent upon whether or not the athlete is on target . Wheelchair curling , first added to the Games in 2006 in Turin , is open to athletes with a physical disability in the lower part of the body that requires the everyday use of a wheelchair . Stones may be played by hand while leaning over the side of the wheelchair , or pushed by a delivery stick .

= = Alpine skiing = =

Britain ' s alpine skiing team consisted of four men , Russell Docker , Timothy Farr , Sean Rose and Talan Skeels @-@ Piggins , and three women Jane Sowerby , Anna Turney and Kelly Gallagher , as well as Gallagher ' s guide , Claire Robb . Docker was competing in his third Winter Paralympics , having previously taken part in Salt Lake City and Turin . The only other British skier with previous Games experience was Rose who had also raced in Turin .

Kelly Gallagher , who became the first Northern Irish athlete to compete in the Winter Paralympics , also achieved the team 's highest finish , missing out on a medal by a single place and 3 @. @ 36 seconds in the women 's visually impaired giant slalom . Sean Rose and Anna Turney also achieved top ten finishes . Jane Sowerby 's preparations were disrupted by a broken collarbone suffered in November 2009 . She failed to finish in the slalom and was disqualified from the giant slalom due to a rolling start .

Men

Women

= = Wheelchair curling = =

Britain's wheelchair curling team consisted of Michael McCreadie, Angela Malone, Tom Killin, Aileen Neilson and James Sellar. These five athletes, representing Scotland, had finished fifth at the 2009 World Championships. Three of the team, McCreadie, Malone and Killin, were also in the GB team which won the silver medal in the event at the 2006 Turin Games. McCreadie, who was competing in his seventh Paralympics, won two bronze medals for Lawn Bowls in the 1976 Summer Paralympics and Killin was a previous silver medalist in wheelchair fencing at the 1980 Summer Games.

Paralympic wheelchair curling is played according to the rules of the World Curling Federation, the only modification is that there is no sweeping. The sport was open to both male and female athletes who competed in mixed teams, with a requirement that each team had at least one member of each sex. The format was a round-robin tournament; each nation played all others in a group stage with the top four qualifying for medal playoffs. Great Britain won three of their nine group games, beating teams from Switzerland, Germany, and Japan. They finished in sixth position, which meant that they did not advance to the medal matches.