



WHEELCHAIR DIVISION TRACK AND FIELD

UIL CONSTITUTION AND CONTEST RULES:

Section 1320:

(e) EVENTS.

(1) Order of Events. The events and order in which they shall be held are:

(D) Events for students in wheelchairs, boys and girls (pilot only)

(I) 100M Dash

(II) 400M Dash

(III) Shot Put

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

A Wheelchair Division is scheduled for the 2015 State Track and Field Meet. The Wheelchair Division will include participants from any conference 1A-6A.

- The wheelchair racing and seated shot put events will be incorporated into the state meet schedule by UIL staff.
- The athletes in the Wheelchair Division will compete in separate races and field events from the traditional athletes. Therefore, the top nine (9) performances that meet the UIL designated qualifying standards will advance to the State Championships.
- The events are considered a pilot program and will be non-scoring events, meaning these events will not count towards any team championships.
- The top three athletes in each event will receive medals. Athletes will be able to set state records at the state meet only. All qualifying participants will be recognized for their participation in the state meet.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE WHEELCHAIR DIVISION:

Only high school students eligible under the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules Subchapter M are eligible to compete.

- All applicable UIL rules and regulations will apply.
- Any high school student may be eligible to participate in the Wheelchair Division track and field events with a documented permanent, physical disability. Each athlete's physical disability must be verified by a licensed physician and maintained on permanent file at the school.
- Schools and athletes are responsible for all aspects of participation in the events.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Participants must submit a qualifying mark or performance to be considered for participation at the state event. Performances will be accepted through the UIL website at www.uil texas.org no later than midnight on May 2, 2015.

- If more than nine participants submit eligible entries in any event, the UIL staff will choose the top nine performances submitted for the state meet.
- A qualifying performance may be obtained from any local competition during the regular season, district, area, regional or Paralympic events from spring 2015. Entries must be able to be verified by an official meet host.

WHEELCHAIR DIVISION QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:

Participants must meet the following standard for each event in order to submit an entry to the state meet.

EVENT	BOYS	GIRLS
100M	:40	:45
400M	2:40	3:00
SHOT PUT	7'0" - 4K	7'0" - 6lbs.

ENTRY PROCEDURES:

School personnel will be required to submit verified qualifying performances.

- School personnel will be required to submit an official meet results document to verify the performance.
- A designated entry process will be provided on the UIL website www.uil texas.org and due no later than May 2, 2015.
- All state qualifiers will be posted on the UIL website at the time they become available.

100m, 400m WHEELCHAIR EQUIPMENT AND RACING STANDARDS:

Athletes will be expected to compete in their school's team uniform. Reasonable accommodations will be made when necessary. Resources for track and field equipment information can be obtained from the following link:

<http://www.texasregionalparalympicsport.org>

- Manual wheelchairs only for track events, which may be specialized racing chair or an all sport chair.
- The racing chair may have two large wheels (not to exceed 70cm in diameter) and one small wheel (not to exceed 50cm in diameter).
- The racing chair must be manually propelled by pushing on the wheels or the hand rims. The chair shall not be equipped with gears, levers or electronic steering.
- All participants must wear a racing helmet that is a hard protective shell and should meet the safety standards of the American National Safety Institute (ANSI).
- Shoes are not required, however protective socks are recommended.
- All participants must start each event using racing gloves.
- Athletes' lower limb(s) must be secured to the track chair. Any touch of the ground by a lower limb results in disqualification from the event.
- Competitors are responsible for the proper functioning of the competition chair and equipment. Athletes that experience an equipment failure may finish the event;

however, no event will be delayed or rescheduled if such an incident occurs.

SHOT PUT EQUIPMENT AND SEATED THROWING STANDARDS:

Athletes will be expected to compete in their school's team uniform. Reasonable accommodations will be made when necessary. Resources for track and field equipment information can be obtained from the following link:

<http://www.texasregionalparalympicsport.org>

- Implements must be allowed by NFHS regulations. The 4K shot put will be used for boys and 6lbs. shot put for girls.
- All participants must put the shot from a "chair" (manual wheelchair, throwing chair, power wheelchair). Scooters and "standing chairs" will not be allowed. Chairs may be designed based on the needs of the athlete.
- The upper most part of the cushion/seat on any chair may not exceed 75cm (29.5 inches) measured from the ground. The seat of the chair has to be square or rectangular and flat or sloped backwards.
- The chair may not have any moving parts or articulated joints.
- No part of the throwing frame or wheelchair may be outside of the circumference of the circle.
- The chair will be considered an extension of the athlete's body. For example: Any part of the chair touching the top of the stop board is a foul.
- A coach (only) may assist the athlete in getting to the competition area.
- A coach (only) may assist the athlete in entering and exiting the circle.
- Tie-down straps for the chair are recommended and should be provided by the athlete; however, a coach (only) may hold the chair during the throwing attempt to prevent excessive movement if no straps are available.
- The athlete's body must remain in contact with the seat during the throw.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. Who is eligible to compete in the Wheelchair Division?

All athletes with a permanent physical disability on file with the school and in grades 9-12 who meet the eligibility standards in the C&CR Subchapter M may be eligible. The mobility of a student participant may or may not include or require the full time use of a wheelchair.

2. Where can athletes with physical disabilities compete?

Wheelchair events may be held at any UIL sanctioned meet. Performances at meets held by groups, including the Paralympic events, could be accepted as qualifying marks for state meet entries provided the performance can be verified with official meet results and/or verification provided by the meet host. Resources for track and field meet event information can be obtained from the link: www.texasregionalparalympicsport.org

3. How does an athlete in wheelchair participate for their high school track and field team?

The athlete must follow the same procedures at their school established for traditional athletes competing in track and field.

4. Can wheelchair contestants compete against traditional athletes in the same race?

Yes, in the 100m and 400m it is recommended that if this occurs the wheelchair athlete is designated to compete in the inside lane. Wheelchair athletes are coached to finish any race by following the curve of the track and need more than 20m to stop forward motion. Boys and girls heats may be combined for competition and separated at the conclusion to determine results and places for each gender and/or division.

5. Can wheelchair contestants compete against traditional athletes in the Shot Put?

Yes, the wheelchair athletes may be flighted with the traditional athletes for the seated shot put throw. Physically challenged participants may choose to take all throws after entering the ring. The athlete's choice of type of "throwing chair" may determine if this is possible or if the athlete needs to be flighted before or after the traditional athletes.

6. How does a coach enter an athlete in the state meet?

The athlete must be entered into the state meet through an online entry form available on the track page on the UIL website. Performance results will be required in order to complete the online entry process.

7. Can athletes racing on the track receive assistance from coaches or other personnel?

No, athletes may only propel themselves forward through their own pushing of the wheels or hand rims.

8. Can athletes throwing the shot put receive assistance from the coaches or other personnel?

A coach (only) may assist the athlete in getting to the competitive area and may also assist the athlete in entering and leaving the circle. Also, for throwing events, the athlete should provide tie-down straps. When no straps are available, a coach may hold the chair during the throwing attempt to prevent excessive movement.

9. Are the uniform rules in place for an athlete in a wheelchair?

Yes, all uniform rules and regulations are in effect just as with the traditional athletes. Some exceptions may need to be considered and presented to meet officials for clarification.

10. Who is responsible for the athlete's equipment?

The athlete is responsible for needed equipment. Schools may provide equipment and assistance may be available through Texas Regional Paralympic Sport upon request. Resources for track and field equipment information can be obtained from the following link: <http://www.texasregionalparalympicsport.org>

11. Where can coaches get more information about training?

Information regarding training and professional development can be utilized through:

RESOURCES FOR EVENTS, INFORMATION AND EQUIPMENT:

www.TexasRegionalParalympicSport.org

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