



Creation of Wheelchair Division

Track & Field to Pioneer New Area of Ohio Athletics

Wheelchair Track & Field OHSAA Adds Adapted Events to State T & F Championships

Highlights

- 100M, 400M, 800M and Shot Put wheelchair events to be added to OHSAA State Championship format
- "All classification" final—unclassified events
- All divisions compete against each other in one final
- Individual honors for both boys and girls to be recognized
- Non scoring events for team standings

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The OHSAA is proud to announce the formation of an Adapted Sport Division of the OHSAA with Track & Field selected as the first sport to pioneer this movement. Athletes who qualify to compete in the Wheelchair Division shall not be separated according to the traditional school enrollment format of other sports, but shall compete as one division of athletics. Therefore, there will be no recognized team championship in the Wheelchair Division, nor shall athletes competing in their concurrent sports championships be able to score points towards their team championships.

However, for the first time, Ohio wheelchair athletes shall be able to compete for individual State Championship honors and shall be recognized by the OHSAA as having achieved this honor. The Ohio Department of Education estimates that some 6-8,000 students across Ohio will be impacted by this decision.

Events being added to the State Cham-

pionship in Track & Field will include the 100M, 400M, 800M, and—in the field events—the shot put. With this action, Track & Field becomes the first sport in Ohio to include wheelchair athletes as a part of a State Championship level of competition and makes Ohio one of only a handful of states who do so.

Extracurricular activities—and sports in particular—have an incredible impact on the emotional, social, and physical well-being of any athlete, disabled or not. Wheelchair events in Track & Field will allow these athletes to represent their schools and communities in a way never before seen in Ohio. There are also post secondary opportunities—NCAA programs and scholarships—available to these athletes. Additionally—although only an estimated 2% of disabled athletes rise to the level of "Paralympian" - the hopes, dreams, and encouragement of the pursuit of such a level of excellence is a cause worthy of Ohio sports.

STATE TRACK & FIELD CLINIC January 24-26, 2013

The OATCCC Executive Committee recognizes that with such a huge commitment comes an obligation to assist coaches with education in this event area.

The 2013 Track & Field Clinic will offer educational sessions and speakers to help coaches learn how to overcome the obstacles which may arise as we institute

the Adapted Sports Program. In this endeavor, rest assured that we have the full support of USA Paralympics—a division of the US Olympic Committee—as well as many support organizations around Ohio.

Please plan to attend these sessions of the Clinic to learn more about helping the athletes at your high school!



GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Each athlete will have the opportunity to compete in the 100M, 400M, 800M and the Shot Put. All equipment necessary to compete is the responsibility of the athlete.
- The meet order for the State Championship shall be determined by meet management.
- The Wheelchair Division includes all D1, D11, and D111 athletes. Therefore, the top eight (8) times/distances which meet the qualifying standards, regardless of division, will advance to the State Championship final.
- Each event is an unclassified event. Athletes do not need a classification in order to compete. There are 29 classifications in Track & Field based on range of function differences, however, the events offered at this meet are "all classification finals." Most athletes do not get classified until they enter a specific Paralympic event, although USA Paralympics can still receive the athlete's results from this competition.
- In the track events, athletes competing in the Wheelchair Division will compete in separate races from able-bodied athletes. In the Shot Put, meet organizers may include athletes in a flight with able-bodied athletes, but athletes will be placed and recognized for awards separately.
- There will be a boys and girls Wheelchair Division event scheduled. Meet management reserves the right to combine genders into one race if the number of entries is not adequate to fill the heat and/or the number of lanes on the track can accommodate the combined number of athletes entered. In a combined race, male and female athletes' times will be separated at the conclusion of the race and champions and placers will be recognized in separate awards ceremonies just as if they had raced separate races.
- These events are non scoring towards the team championship awards.
- Top eight placers in each event will be recognized (or less depending on participation).
- As with any athlete, schools are responsible for all aspects of an athlete's participation in the events being entered.

ELIGIBILITY

- All high school students with a permanent, physical disability (See Appendix A) may be eligible, subject to the sole discretion of the OHSAA, to participate on their school's track and field team.
- Each athlete's physical disability must be verified by a licensed physician and maintained on permanent file at the school. OHSAA reserves the right to request this documentation as part of the entry process. (See Appendix B)
- Wheelchair Division athletes must meet all of the same OATCCC/OHSAA eligibility requirements as able-bodied athletes. A complete listing of these eligibility requirements can be found in the *OHSAA Handbook*, or at the following information website:
<http://www.oatccc.com/track/OATCCCStateChampionships/index.html>
- Qualification procedures for these events shall be the same as the OATCCC requirements for qualifying to the OATCCC Indoor T & F Championships.
- Coaches should follow the same procedure for their wheelchair athletes as they do for able-bodied athletes. There is nothing extra that needs to be done. The entry process is exactly the same.
- **EXCEPTION:** A top 25 performance list will be kept as with other events. In the Wheelchair Division, however, only the top 8 will advance. Twenty-five performances are listed for each event because not all schools with an athlete in the top 8 will choose to compete. Therefore, **all coaches should enter all of their athletes listed on the performance list, not just those in the top 8.** Failure to declare by posted deadlines will result in non-acceptance to the meet.
- Athletes must compete in their school's team uniforms. Please see the event rules section on how to handle exceptions which may be necessary.

NATIONAL SUPPORT

The following organizations and personnel are national and regional coordinators who support the OHSAA in our effort to bring Wheelchair events to Ohio.

United States Olympic Committee
U.S. Paralympics Division
One Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
(Phone) 719-866-2030
(Fax) 719-866-2029
www.usaparalympics.org

United States Olympic Committee
Paralympic Sport Club Program
National T & F Director
Cathy Sellers
(Phone) 719-866-2036
cathy.sellers@usoc.org

United States Olympic Committee
Paralympic Sport Club Program
Regional Director
Dan Schwieder
(Phone) 719-866-2034
dan.schwieder@usoc.org





WHEELCHAIR DIVISION FAQ'S

STATE SUPPORT

The following organizations and personnel are USA Paralympic Sports Programs in Ohio. Coaches may find these people and their organizations invaluable in helping their athletes.

Adaptive Sports Program of Ohio

Executive Director, ASPO
Lisa Followay
P.O. Box 1488
Wooster, Ohio 44691
(Phone) 330-317-5259
adaptivesports@rocketmail.com

Cincinnati Recreation Committee

Therapeutic Recreation Programs
Ann-Marie Stuart, Coordinator
805 Central Avenue, Suite 800
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
(Phone) 513-352-2549
ann.marie.stuart@cincinnati-oh.gov

Columbus Recreation & Parks Dept

Franklin Park Indoor Adventure Center
Mary Beth Moore, Manager
1755 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43203
(Phone) 614-645-5648
mbmoore@columbus.gov

Additionally, there are several organizations in neighboring states which may be more geographically located to your school. For a complete listing of USA Paralympic approved programs, please see the following website:

[http://usparalympics.org/
community-programs/paralympic-
sport-clubs/current-clubs](http://usparalympics.org/community-programs/paralympic-sport-clubs/current-clubs)

Who is eligible to compete in the Wheelchair Division?

- * All athletes in grades 9-12 who meet the Eligibility standards (see Appendix A)
- * Each athlete's permanent, physical disability must be verified by a licensed physician and must be maintained by the designated administrator of the athlete's high school. (See App B)
- * Athletes must meet all eligibility requirements and entry deadlines listed within this newsletter and posted on the OHSAA State Championship information page (www.oatccc.com)

How does an athlete in a wheelchair register for their high school track & field team?

- * The athlete must register with their school following the same procedures established for able-bodied athletes competing in track & field.

Where can wheelchair athletes compete?

- * Wheelchair events can be competed at any OHSAA sanctioned meet. Meet directors will be encouraged to add these events. Coaches should always call ahead to confirm the events being competed. Coaches can also help by asking meet organizers ahead of time to please add an event if they have not placed one on the program.
- * Results from meets held outside of Ohio (i.e. Penn Relays) are sometimes accepted as qualifying marks provided the times in races were FAT and permission was granted prior to the meet. The athlete, however, had to compete as a member of their school's track & field team and in their high school's uniform. National Team results where the athlete was competing for the USA will be the only exception to this rule.

Can wheelchair athletes compete against able-bodied athletes in the same race?

- * In the 100M, 400M, and 800M—no.
- * If the wheelchair athlete is the only competitor in the race, the athlete will compete against the clock.
- * Boys and girls heats may be combined if the number of lanes permit. Times and distances should be separated at the conclusion of the race to determine places for each gender.

Is this true for Shot Put also?

- * No—wheelchair athletes may be flighted with able-bodied athletes for the Shot Put.

Can athletes receive assistance from coaches or other personnel?

- * In the 100M, 400M, and 800M—no. No motorized chairs are permitted. Athletes may only propel themselves forward through their own pushing of the wheels or hand rims.
- * In the Shot Put, 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 in the Shot Put—the school does not have to provide tie-down straps for throwing athletes. A coach (only) may hold the chair during the throwing attempt to prevent excessive movement.

Are the uniform rules in place for wheelchair athletes?

- * All uniform rules are in effect just as with able-bodied athletes, however—there are some exceptions highlighted in the *Uniform Rules* section of this newsletter. These exceptions need to be approved in writing by the OHSAA and presented to meet officials as part of the entry process.

Who is responsible for the athlete's equipment?

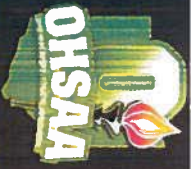
- * The athlete.

Can the athlete score points for their team?

- * No. Athletes who compete in the Wheelchair Division will be awarded individual honors, but will not score points for their team.

Can an athlete compete in all four events throughout the course of the day?

- * Yes—if they qualify.



EVENT RULES—WHEELCHAIR 100M, 400M, & 800M RACES

THESE EVENTS SHALL FOLLOW ALL NFHS AND OHSAA RULES WITH THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS:

QUALIFICATION:

- Meet the qualifying standards for each event (see Coaches' Checklist, page 8)
- Be one of the top 8 qualifying times regardless of division of their school

TRACK CHAIR:

- The track chair shall have two rear wheels and one front wheel.
- The track chair frame shall not extend in front of the center of the front wheel hub.
- The track chair may have no mechanical gears or levers that could propel the chair.
- The track chair's seat including the cushion shall not exceed 25 inches in height.
- The steering must be hand operated. NO electronic steering is allowed.
- NO part of the track chair or frame may protrude past the furthest point of the rear wheel.
- Athlete's lower limbs must be secured to the track chair. Any touch of the ground by the lower limb results in disqualification from the event.
- Competitors are responsible for the proper functioning of the track chair. No event shall be delayed or rescheduled for equipment failure prior to the event.
- Manufacturer's logos only—no sponsorship logos are permitted.



WHEELS:

- The maximum diameter of the rear wheel and inflated tire is 28 inches.
- The maximum diameter of the front wheel and inflated tire is 20 inches and not be smaller than 10 inches.
- Each rear wheel may have one hand rim.

HELMET AND GLOVES:

- All competitors must wear a CPSC certified helmet (Bike/Skate).
- All competitors must start each event using racing gloves.
- Athletes may only propel the chair forward by pushing on the wheels or hand rims.

THE RACE:

- **The start:** The center of the front axle (axle plane) may not extend over the starting line. The commands in all Wheelchair Division races shall be, "Wheelers set" followed by the firing of the starting device.
- **The finish:** The finish of the race occurs when the center of the front axle (axle plane) crosses the finish line.
- **Wheeling in lanes:** The 100M, 400M, and 800M shall be raced the same as in able-bodied events in regards to "lanes all the way" and/or break lines. Touching or crossing over lane lines for more than 10 consecutive feet is a disqualification. Crossing a lane line for any distance and impeding another competitor is a disqualification.
- **Passing or changing lanes:** Competitors must have full clearance or another athlete's front wheel in order to pass or move into another lane. Failure to pass or change lanes correctly will result in disqualification.
- **Obstruction:** Athletes may not touch or obstruct another competitor during an event. Obstruction of an athlete will result in disqualification.



EVENT RULES—WHEELCHAIR SHOT PUT

THESE EVENTS SHALL FOLLOW ALL NFHS AND OHSAA RULES WITH THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS:

- Meet the qualifying standards for each event (see Coaches' Checklist, page 8)
- The top 8 athletes regardless of division will qualify to the final.
- All competitors must put the shot from a “chair” (manual wheelchair, throwing chair, power wheelchair). Scooters and “standing chairs” will not be allowed.
- The upper most part of the cushion/seat on any chair may not exceed 75cm (29.5 inches).
- If the frame has a holding bar, it must be fixed (no articulating joints).
- No part of the throwing frame or wheelchair may be outside 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.
- The school does not have to provide tie-down straps for throwing athletes. A coach (only) may hold the chair during the throwing attempt to prevent excessive movement.
- One buttock cheek must remain in contact with the seat during the throw.
- The size of the shot for wheelchair participants shall be the same as for all other male and female participants.
- Athletes who are in a wheelchair may compete in the same flight as able-bodied athletes but will be placed separately.

EVENT RULES—WAIVER REQUIRED FOR UNIFORM MODIFICATIONS

Wheelchair Division athletes must meet all OHSAA and NFHS uniform regulations, however, NFHS Rule 4-4-4 (pp. 24-25) states, “Modification of the competitor’s equipment or uniform (due to medical or religious reasons), pending approval, shall require a letter of authorization from the state association and shall be made available to the meet referee prior to the beginning of competition.”

Coaches may want to consider the following highlighted rules which could directly impact their Wheelchair Division athlete:

- 4-3-1a NFHS, p. 23
Each competitor shall wear shoes. The rule requires an athlete to wear shoes on both feet which may not be feasible for a wheelchair athlete.
- 4-3-3a NFHS, pp. 25
Jewelry. The rule outlines the considerations given to medical alert medals—which are not considered jewelry—but do specify how to handle these situations.
- 4-4-1 NFHS, p. 26
Braces. The rule outlines rules for braces, guards, splints, etc.
- 4-4-2 NFHS
Prostheses. Authorizes state associations to permit the use of prostheses by an athlete under certain conditions. See the NOTE for Rule 4-4-2, p. 26
- 5-11-12 NFHS, p. 39
5-11-13 NFHS, p. 39-40
Rules 5-11-12 and 5-11-13 deal with races run in lanes and races not run in lanes respectively. In the Wheelchair Division, the chair is considered an extension of the athlete’s body, therefore:
A. No part of the chair may be wider than the lane width of the track
B. Wheelchair Division races shall be raced the same as in able-bodied events in regards to racing in lanes or not. Touching or crossing over lane lines for more than 10 consecutive feet is a disqualification. Crossing a lane line for any distance and impeding another competitor is a disqualification.

This list is not all-inclusive. Page numbers and rule references are from the 2013 NFHS Rule Book. Any questions regarding rules and/or interpretations should be directed to the OHSAA.



OHSAA Track & Field Championships—Time Schedule

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2013

Division III

Track Events — Finals

9:30 A.M. Girls Hurdles (33") — 100 meters
9:35 A.M. Boys Hurdles (39") — 110 meters
9:40 A.M. Girls Dash — 100 meters
Boys Dash — 100 meters

Girls Dash—100 meters Wheelchair Division

Boys Dash—100 meters Wheelchair Division

* Girls and boys Wheelchair Division 100M may be combined into one heat depending on the number of participants

9:55 A.M. Girls Relay — 4 x 200 meters
10:05 A.M. Boys Relay — 4 x 200 meters
10:15 A.M. Girls Run — 1600 meters
Boys Run — 1600 meters
10:30 A.M. Girls Relay — 4 x 100 meters
Boys Relay — 4 x 100 meters
10:40 A.M. Girls Dash — 400 meters
Boys Dash — 400 meters
10:50 A.M. Girls Hurdles (30") — 300 meters
Boys Hurdles (36") — 300 meters
11:05 A.M. Girls Run — 800 meters
Boys Run — 800 meters
11:15 A.M. Girls Dash — 200 meters
Boys Dash — 200 meters
11:20 A.M. Girls Run — 3200 meters
Boys Run — 3200 meters
11:50 A.M. Girls Relay — 4 x 400 meters
Boys Relay — 4 x 400 meters

Division II

Track Events - Division II—Finals

1:00 P.M. Girls Hurdles (33") — 100 meters
1:05 P.M. Boys Hurdles (39") — 110 meters
1:10 P.M. Girls Dash — 100 meters
Boys Dash — 100 meters
1:15 P.M. Girls Relay — 4 x 200 meters
Boys Relay — 4 x 200 meters
1:25 P.M. Girls Run — 1600 meters
Boys Run — 1600 meters
1:35 P.M. Girls Relay — 4 x 100 meters
Boys Relay — 4 x 100 meters
1:50 P.M. Girls Dash — 400 meters
Boys Dash — 400 meters
2:05 P.M. Girls Relay — 4 x 100 meters
Boys Relay — 4 x 100 meters

Girls Dash—400 meters Wheelchair Division

Boys Dash—400 meters Wheelchair Division

* Girls and boys Wheelchair Division 400M may be combined into one heat depending on the number of participants

2:15 P.M. Girls Hurdles (30") — 300 meters
Boys Hurdles (36") — 300 meters
2:30 P.M. Girls Run — 800 meters
Boys Run — 800 meters
2:40P .M. Girls Dash — 200 meters
Boys Dash — 200 meters
2:45 P.M. Girls Run — 3200 meters
Boys Run — 3200 meters
3:15 P.M. Girls Relay — 4 x 400 meters
Boys Relay — 4 x 400 meters



OHSAA Track & Field Championships—Time Schedule

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2013

Division I

Field Events - Preliminary Trials & Finals

- 12:00 P.M. Girls Discus Throw
 - 12:00 P.M. Girls High Jump
 - 12:00 P.M. Boys Long Jump
 - 12:00 P.M. Boys Shot Put
 - 12:00 P.M. Boys Pole Vault
 - 12:00 P.M. Boys Discus Throw
 - 3:00 P.M. Boys High Jump
 - 3:00 P.M. Girls Long Jump
 - 3:00 P.M. Girls Shot Put
 - 3:00 P.M. Girls Pole Vault
- followed by Boys Wheelchair Shot Put*
- followed by Girls Wheelchair Shot Put*

* *Boys and girls Wheelchair Division Shot Put may be flighted together and/or in the Shot Put for able-bodied athletes depending on participation numbers—To be announced.*

Division I

Track Events - Finals

- 4:30 P.M. Girls Hurdles (33")—100 meters
- 4:35 P.M. Boys Hurdles (39")—110 meters
- 4:40 P.M. Girls Dash—100 meters
- 4:45 P.M. Boys Dash—100 meters
- 4:45 P.M. Girls Relay—4 x 200 meters
- 4:55 P.M. Boys Relay—4 x 200 meters
- 5:05 P.M. Girls Run—1600 meters
- 5:20 P.M. Boys Run—1600 meters
- 5:35 P.M. Girls Relay—4 x 100 meters
- 5:35 P.M. Boys Relay—4 x 100 meters
- 5:40 P.M. Girls Dash—400 meters
- 5:40 P.M. Boys Hurdles (30")—300 meters
- 5:55 P.M. Girls Hurdles (36")—300 meters
- 5:55 P.M. Girls Run—800 meters
- 5:55 P.M. Boys Run—800 meters
- 6:20 P.M. Girls Dash—800 meters
- 6:20 P.M. Boys Dash—800 meters
- 6:25 P.M. Girls Dash—200 meters
- 6:25 P.M. Boys Dash—200 meters
- 6:25 P.M. Girls Run—3200 meters
- 6:25 P.M. Boys Run—3200 meters
- 6:55 P.M. Girls Relay—4 x 400 meters
- 6:55 P.M. Boys Relay—4 x 400 meters

* *Girls and boys Wheelchair Division 800M may be combined into one heat depending on the number of participants*



COACH / ATHLETE CHECKLIST

The athlete's disability has been verified by a licensed physician (see Appendix B) and this record is maintained on permanent file at the school. NOTE: The OHSAA reserves the right to request this documentation as part of the entry process.

The athlete meets all OHSAA eligibility requirements of residency and academics.

The coach has contacted meet officials to inquire about wheelchair events and to confirm participation.

The coach has addressed any uniform modifications and received written waivers from the OHSAA authorizing the modification. Copies of this letter are available for meet referees prior to the beginning of the meet.

The athlete has trained both physically and mentally for the events being entered.

The athlete has verified the functioning of all equipment required for competition.

The athlete has met the qualifying times in the 100M, 400M, and/or 800M (These times must be FAT).

	100M	400M	800M	SP
BOYS	:40	2:00	3:30	9'0"
GIRLS	:45	2:30	4:00	7'0"

The coach has verified that meet management has forwarded all FAT qualifying times to the OHSAA (OATCCC) result collection site.

Coaches with athletes listed on the performance list have followed the declaration process of entering their athlete in the OHSAA State Championship. All deadlines MUST be met.

Coaches and athletes have verified the final entry / acceptance.

Coaches and athletes have planned ahead for a GREAT weekend in Columbus!



MEET DIRECTOR'S CHECKLIST

We have considered the parking and/or drop-off areas for handicapped athletes and their drivers.

We have considered restroom facilities and/or specialized temporary restroom management for wheelchair accessibility

Any special instructions at the coaches' meeting?

The coach has addressed any uniform modifications and received written waivers from the OHSAA authorizing the modification. Copies of this letter are available for meet referees prior to the beginning of the meet.

The Meet Referee understands the guidelines for wheelchair competition

Officials in wheelchair events understand the event rules.

The Starter knows the commands to be given in all wheelchair events.

The FAT finish line people know that the front axle of the wheel is where we mark the finish time.

The Meet Director has verified that meet management has forwarded all FAT qualifying times to the OHSAA (OATCCC) result collection site.

The Meet Director has verified that meet management has forwarded all FAT qualifying times to the USOC Paralympic Division upon request of the wheelchair athlete and/or their coach.

Consideration has been given as to how to present the awards to these athletes—the podium doesn't work...

Media contacts



APPENDIX A TRACK & FIELD WHEELCHAIR EVENT ELIGIBILITY RULES AND REGULATIONS

PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

This Appendix details the description of physical impairments which qualify athletes to compete in OHSAA sanctioned track and field events. For the purpose of consistency in participation in Adapted Sport competition as well as uniformity of vocabulary, the OHSAA has modeled this Appendix after the *International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classifications Rules and Regulations Manual*. For further elaboration and/or competition requirements, attention is directed to the IPC website at <http://ipc-athletics.paralympic.org>

It is divided into three parts:

- 1.0 Introduction: Offers an overview of the process for determining eligibility for competition in OHSAA track & field wheelchair events.
- 2.0 Eligibility: Identifies the types of impairments that are eligible for OHSAA track & field wheelchair events, as well as minimal disability criteria.
- 3.0 Appeals Process: A description of the appeals process by which an athlete not described in “Section 2: Eligibility” may be granted an OHSAA Participation Waiver.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Prior to participation in OHSAA adapted sports events, an athlete must demonstrate the presence of a qualifying permanent physical impairment that meets the eligibility criteria set forth by the OHSAA (see Section 2.0).
- 1.2 The OHSAA Adapted Sport Division is based on the straightforward concept that eligibility for wheelchair events in track and field potentially affords students with physical impairments the experience of interscholastic competition previously unavailable in Ohio.
- 1.3 When these OHSAA Track & Field eligibility rules are silent on the methods that apply for setting eligibility and minimal disability criteria, provisions in the Appeals Process shall apply (see Section 3.0).



APPENDIX A
TRACK & FIELD WHEELCHAIR EVENT
ELIGIBILITY RULES AND REGULATIONS
(Continued—Page 2)

2.0 ELIGIBILITY AND MINIMAL DISABILITY CRITERIA

2.1 At the time the OHSAA Adapted Sport Division was enacted (2012), the eligibility and minimal disability criteria listed in the 2011 *International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classifications Rules and Regulations Manual* were used to formulate this section. As the IPC continues to issue revisions, the OHSAA reserves the right to update and modify these standards at any time and without notice.

2.2 The following impairment types are eligible for competition in OHSAA Track & Field wheelchair events:

2.21 Hypertonia

Health conditions which cause hypertonia include, but are not limited to Cerebral Palsy (CP), stroke, acquired brain injury, and multiple sclerosis (MS).

Minimal Disability Criteria
Minimally affected diplegic, spasticity grade 1; hemiplegic, spasticity grade 1; monoplegic; minimal athetoid/ataxic athlete. Must have clear evidence of spasticity; involuntary movement and/or ataxia. As a guide, clear evidence should include at least 1 major sign and 1 minor sign from the list below:
Major
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear uni-or bilateral Babinski • Clear uni-or bilateral clonus (e.g. 4 beats) • Noticeably brisk reflexes or clear difference in reflexes between right and left • Clear evidence of athetosis or ataxia
Minor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stiffness or rigidity in 1 or more limbs • Mild atrophy or shortening of a limb

2.22 Lower Extremity Loss of a Limb or Limb Deficiency

Loss of a lower extremity (below the waist) limb at any point as a result of trauma-related amputation or congenital limb deficiency (dysmelia)

Minimal Disability Criteria
Beginning with the hip socket and through or above the ankle joint, any amputation.



APPENDIX A

TRACK & FIELD WHEELCHAIR EVENT
ELIGIBILITY RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Continued—Page 3)

2.0 ELIGIBILITY AND MINIMAL DISABILITY CRITERIA (Continued)

2.23 Limb-length difference, such as results from congenital dysgenesis or trauma.

Minimal Disability Criteria
At least 7cm difference between left and right leg. Measurements to be taken from the inferior aspect of the anterior superior iliac spine to the most medial tip of medial malleolus on the same side.

2.24 Impaired muscle power or mobility impairment, whether congenital or a result of trauma, which prohibits standing and/or walking. The causes may include (but are not limited to) spinal cord injury, muscular dystrophy, brachial plexus injury, spina bifida, post-polio, or Guillain-Barre Syndrome.

Minimal Disability Criteria
Permanently confined to a wheelchair.

2.25 Any permanent physical disability not listed in this section is ineligible to compete in wheelchair events in track and field. An appeal process is in place, however, so that circumstances not identified in this section may be considered for competition approval. See Section 3.0 for the Appeals Process.

2.30 Permanent physical disabilities identified in Section 2.2 must be verified by a licensed physician using the OHSAA Adapted Sports Verification Form (see Appendix B). A copy must be sent to the OHSAA and the original maintained on file by the Board designated athletic administrator or the athlete's district.

2.40 Athletes must meet all other OHSAA eligibility guidelines as listed in the *OHSAA Handbook* and available at the OHSAA website, <http://www.ohsaa.org>. Appeals to items in the *OHSAA Handbook* must follow the appeals process outline therein. This appeal to OHSAA eligibility guidelines is not related to the appeal identified in 2.30



APPENDIX A
TRACK & FIELD WHEELCHAIR EVENT
ELIGIBILITY RULES AND REGULATIONS
(Continued—Page 4)

3.0 PROTESTS AND APPEALS

3.10 Protests

- 3.11 The term “Protest” refers to the procedure by which a formal objection made to an athlete’s physical eligibility to compete as a wheelchair athlete in OHSAA Track and Field events is made and subsequently resolved.
 - 3.12 The athlete in question may continue to compete while the Protest is considered.
 - 3.13 The OHSAA reserves the right to examine the documentation of the athlete in question and make a non-medical decision based on the evidence presented. There may be an administrative cost for this investigation including legal counsel which shall be borne by the individual and/or institution filing the Protest.
 - 3.14 The OHSAA may request additional assistance in this determination in the form of either a medical evaluation and/or an Athlete Evaluation conducted by a registered National Federation Classifier. The cost of any such procedure shall be borne by the individual and/or institution filing the Protest.
 - 3.15 The decision of the OHSAA shall be presented in writing. The decision is final and no further Protests can be made against the athlete in the course of the season in which the Protest occurred.
 - 3.16 If the Protest goes against the athlete, the athlete is ineligible for further competition as a wheelchair athlete. An athlete may appeal the decision following the procedures listed in Appeals, Sections 3.30 and 3.40
- 3.20 Protest Procedures**
- 3.21 Protests must be entered on the OHSAA Adapted Sport Protest Form and submitted to the OHSAA. The form must be filled out in its entirety. (See Appendix B)
 - 3.22 Upon submission of the Protest to the OHSAA, a review shall be conducted to determine if there is a valid reason for a Protest and if all of the necessary information is included. If it is determined that there is no valid reason for the Protest or the Protest form is incomplete, the Protest shall be declined and all relevant parties will be notified in writing of the decision and explanation. The OHSAA will retain the Protest fee.
 - 3.23 If the Protest is accepted, the OHSAA reserves the right to seek legal, medical, and sport or scientific expertise in reviewing the Protest. All costs associated with this process shall be borne by the individual and/or the institution filing the Protest.
 - 3.24 Upon completion of the review of the Protest, the OHSAA shall render a decision in writing to all relevant parties. The decision is final and not subject to further Protest.



APPENDIX A
TRACK & FIELD WHEELCHAIR EVENT
ELIGIBILITY RULES AND REGULATIONS
(Continued—Page 5)

3.0 PROTESTS AND APPEALS (Continued)

3.30 Appeals

- 3.31 The term “Appeal” refers to the procedure by which a formal objection is made to (1) the results of a Protest ruling against the athlete’s physical eligibility to compete as a wheelchair athlete in OHSAA Track and Field event, or (2) a request for an OHSAA Participation Waiver in respect to “Exceptional Circumstances” as they relate to an omission in Section 2.2 and the resolution of that Appeal.
- 3.32 The athlete in question may not continue to compete while the Appeal is considered.
- 3.33 The OHSAA reserves the right to examine the documentation of the athlete in question and make a non-medical decision based on the evidence presented. There may be an administrative cost for this investigation including legal counsel which shall be borne by the individual and/or institution filing the Appeal.
- 3.34 The OHSAA may request additional assistance in this determination in the form of either a medical evaluation and/or an Athlete Evaluation conducted by a registered National Federation Classifier. The cost of any such procedure shall be borne by the individual and/or institution filing the Appeal.
- 3.35 The decision of the OHSAA shall be presented in writing. The decision is final and no further Appeals can be made on behalf of the athlete in the course of the season in which the Appeal occurred.
- 3.36 If the Appeal goes against the athlete, the athlete is ineligible for further competition as a wheelchair athlete for that season..
- 3.40 Appeal Procedures
 - 3.41 Appeals must be entered on the OHSAA Adapted Sport Appeal Form and submitted to the OHSAA. The form must be filled out in its entirety. (See Appendix B)
 - 3.42 Upon submission of the Appeal to the OHSAA, a review shall be conducted to determine if there is a valid reason for an Appeal and if all of the necessary information is included. If it is determined that there is no valid reason for the Appeal or if the Appeal form is incomplete, the Appeal shall be declined and all relevant parties will be notified in writing of the decision and explanation. The OHSAA will retain the Appeal fee.
 - 3.43 If the Appeal is accepted, the OHSAA reserves the right to seek legal, medical, and sport or scientific expertise in reviewing the Appeal. All costs associated with this process shall be borne by the individual and/or the institution filing the Appeal.
 - 3.44 Upon completion of the review of the Appeal the OHSAA shall render a decision in writing to all relevant parties. The decision is final and not subject to further Appeal.



APPENDIX B TRACK & FIELD WHEELCHAIR EVENT FORMS

PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

This Appendix contains the forms necessary to document an athlete's eligibility and/or the process by which that eligibility might be protested and/or appealed. For the purpose of consistency in participation in Adapted Sport competition as well as uniformity of vocabulary, the OHSAA has modeled this Appendix after the *International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classifications Rules and Regulations Manual*. For further elaboration and/or competition requirements, attention is directed to the IPC website at <http://ipc-athletics.paralympic.org>

There are three forms:

Page 16 THE ADAPTED SPORTS VERIFICATION FORM

The purpose of this form is to declare an athlete's eligibility for OHSAA wheelchair track and field events in accordance with Section 2.0 of Appendix A, Eligibility and Minimal Disability Criteria (see pp. 11-12). A copy of this form must be sent to the OHSAA and The original kept on permanent file with the athlete's high school.

Page 17 PROTEST FORM

The purpose of this form is for a school to challenge the right of an athlete from another school to participate in OHSAA wheelchair track and field events based on a perceived violation of or a failure to conform to Section 2.0 of Appendix A, Eligibility and Minimal Disability Criteria (see pp. 11-12).

Page 18 APPEAL FORM

This form serves two purposes:

- (1) To allow an athlete the opportunity to appeal a Protest decision which changed the eligibility of the athlete in a manner that disallows participation in OHSAA wheelchair track and field events.
- (2) To allow an athlete to appeal a disability which is not listed in Appendix A under Section 2.0, Eligibility and Minimal Disability Criteria (see pp. 11-12), for the purpose of competing in OHSAA wheelchair track and field events.



OHSAA WHEELCHAIR DIVISION NEWSLETTER

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APPENDIX B

CONFIDENTIAL FORMS

ADAPTED SPORTS VERIFICATION FORM

The purpose of this form is to declare an athlete's eligibility for OHSAA wheelchair track and field events in accordance with Section 2.0 of Appendix A, Eligibility and Minimal Disability Criteria (see pp. 11-12). A copy of this form must be sent to the OHSAA and the original kept on permanent file with the athlete's high school.

PART ONE: ATHLETE INFORMATION

Name _____ Gender _____ Grade _____
 Last First MI
 Address _____ City _____ State OH Zip _____
 Street

PART TWO: HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

Name _____ Head Coach _____
 Address _____ City _____ State OH Zip _____
 Street

I certify that the above named athlete meets all OHSAA eligibility requirements of age, residency, and academics.

Signature of HS Principal OR Athletic Director _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

PART THREE: PHYSICIAN'S / CLASSIFIER'S CERTIFICATION (May not be a relative of the athlete)

I certify that the above athlete applicant was examined by myself on _____ (Date) and meets the OHSAA Minimal Disability Criteria listed in Appendix A, Section 2.0 (pages 11-12) of the OHSAA Wheelchair Event Eligibility Rules and Regulations.

Diagnosis: _____

Printed name of Physician OR Classifier _____ Signature of Physician OR Classifier _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Street
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

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APPENDIX B
CONFIDENTIAL FORMS
PROTEST FORM

The purpose of this form is for a school to challenge the right of an athlete from another school to participate in OHSAA wheelchair track and field events based on a perceived violation of or a failure to conform to Section 2.0 of Appendix A, Eligibility and Minimal Disability Criteria (see pp. 11-12).

PART ONE. SCHOOL FILING THE PROTEST

School _____

Principal _____

Print

I certify, that on behalf of my high school and athletic department, I am protesting the participation of the athlete identified in Part Two on the basis of the evidence provided in support of this document. I understand the following stipulations under Section 3.0 of Appendix A, Track & Field wheelchair Event eligibility Rules and Regulations:

- 3.13 The OHSAA reserves the right to examine the documentation of the athlete in question and make a non-medical decision based on the evidence presented. There may be an administrative cost for this investigation including legal counsel which shall be borne by the individual and/or institution filing the Protest.
 - 3.14 The OHSAA may request additional assistance in this determination in the form of either a medical evaluation and/or an Athlete Evaluation conducted by a registered National Federation Classifier. The cost of any such procedure shall be borne by the individual and/or institution filing the Protest.
- I personally guarantee the payment of the costs identified above to the OHSAA upon completion of this Protest.

Principal's Signature (Must be the same name as identified previously)

Phone

Date

PART TWO. PROTESTED ATHLETE INFORMATION

Name of athlete _____ High School _____

Event (Circle all that apply): 100M 400M 800M Shot Put

Grounds for Protest: _____

Attach all documents, facts and expert witnesses, and other evidence to be offered in evidence in support of the Protest.

Proposed remedy to the protest: _____

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APPENDIX B
CONFIDENTIAL FORMS
APPEAL FORM

This form serves two purposes:

- (1) To allow an athlete the opportunity to appeal a Protest decision which changed the eligibility of the athlete in a manner that disallows participation in OHSAA wheelchair track and field events.
- (2) To allow an athlete to appeal a disability which is not listed in Appendix A under Section 2.0, Eligibility and Minimal Disability Criteria (see pp. 11-12), for the purpose of competing in OHSAA wheelchair track and field events.

PART ONE. SCHOOL FILING THE APPEAL

School _____ Principal _____ Print

I certify, that on behalf of my high school and athletic department, I am appealing the participation of the athlete identified in Part Two on the basis of the evidence provided in support of this document. I understand the following stipulations under Section 3.0 of Appendix A, Track & Field wheelchair Event eligibility Rules and Regulations:

- 3.13 The OHSAA reserves the right to examine the documentation of the athlete in question and make a non-medical decision based on the evidence presented. There may be an administrative cost for this investigation including legal counsel which shall be borne by the individual and/or institution filing the Protest.
- 3.14 The OHSAA may request additional assistance in this determination in the form of either a medical evaluation and/or an Athlete Evaluation conducted by a registered National Federation Classifier. The cost of any such procedure shall be borne by the individual and/or institution filing the Protest.

I personally guarantee the payment of the costs identified above to the OHSAA upon completion of this Protest.

Principal's Signature (Must be the same name as identified previously) _____ Phone _____ Date _____

PART TWO. ATHLETE INFORMATION

Name of athlete _____ High School _____

Event (Circle all that apply): 100M 400M 800M Shot Put

Grounds for Appeal: _____

Attach all documents, facts and expert witnesses, and other evidence to be offered in evidence in support of the Appeal.

Proposed remedy to the protest: _____

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