



NATIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS OF COMPETITION

2022/23 Season

**Official Regulations
Wheelchair Football Association (WFA)
www.thewfa.org.uk**

Sponsored by

The Wheelchair Football Association (WFA) National League **2022/23 Regulations**

Organisation

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Preamble

WFA 2022/23 National League competition will be run in line with the *WFA 2022/23 National League Regulations* (Appendix 1) and will meet the *WFA 2022/23 National League Event Requirements* (Appendix 2). **All FA Rules and Regulations shall apply and in the event of a conflict, FA Rules and Regulations shall take precedence.**

The **WFA 2022/23 National League competition** format will follow format outlined in (Appendix 3).

All **WFA 2022/23 National League competition** matches will be played according to the current WFA sanctioned ***Laws_of_the_game.pdf*** document.

This includes all equipment regulations regarding Powerchairs and playing attachments.

These are available to download from the WFA website (www.thewfa.org.uk).

The **WFA 2022/23 National League** competition will be named “**WFA Premiership**” and “**WFA Championship**” divisions respectively.

The **WFA 2022/23 National League competition** will be an **FA RESPECT League**.

All Clubs, Players, Coaches, Team Managers, Club Officials and Supporters must have signed up to the RESPECT Code of Conduct.

Any person found to be in breach of this will be subject to the Sanctions outlined by the FA and enforced by the WFA.

These are available to download from the WFA website (www.thewfa.org.uk)

The **WFA** and all affiliated **Powerchair Football Clubs** and Competing Teams must ensure these Rules and Regulations are adhered to.

The aim of this competition is to showcase our sport, and also meet the Wheelchair Football Associations mission and objectives. The ethos and credibility of the sport of Powerchair Football must always remain at the forefront of this competition.

2. Finances

2.1 Participating Teams (Clubs)

The following costs shall be borne by the participating teams:

- WFA 2022/23 Affiliation Fee (£150 per club) Any Team that is not part of a Club affiliated to the WFA shall not be granted permission to participate in the League.
- WFA National League entry fees (£1,200 per team).
 - Two invoices will be sent during the season; once at the start of the season and mid-way through the season. for 50% of the fee. Payment must be received 7 days prior to the start of competition (Championship: by Friday 26th August 2022, Premiership: by Friday 2nd September 2022). Further payment options may be considered but failure to complete payment will result in a suspension and may result in expulsion from the league.
- Any Fines awarded to Teams or Player as outline in these Regulations.
- Travelling expenses of the team from home to the place where the competition is held.
- All accommodation and food expenses.
- All expenses for additional health and accident insurance. The organiser cannot be held responsible for accidents or illness, unless caused by negligence.
- All unofficial participants are responsible for all their own expenses.

2.2 Organisers

The following costs shall be administered by the WFA:

- Cost of venue hire.
- Payment of Referees.
- Cost of Classification.
- Cost of awards.

Appendix 1

WFA 2022/23 National League Regulations

Qualification of Clubs

Club Affiliation

In order for a Club to enter a Team in the WFA National League, the Club must have affiliated to the WFA for the 2022/23 season. This process ensures the Club has affiliated to their County F.A. and has adequate insurance through the WFA policy.

Team Registration & requirements

Teams will automatically be registered using the placing at the completion of the 2021/22 season. New teams gain entry through the National League qualification process. If you would like more information on this, please contact the National League Secretary.

Any team wishing to participate in National League competition must also provide a team for participation their respective regional league. If a team fails to do so, they will not be permitted to enter the National League the following season.

The WFA withholds the right to suspend any Team from participation in any League fixtures that fails to comply with these requirements.

Squad Declaration and Player Eligibility

Squad Declaration

Each Team must declare a definitive League Competition Squad with a minimum of **six (6)** players by (Championship: by Friday 26th August 2022. Premiership: by Friday 2nd September 2022). Failure to do so will result in a fine of **£200** per weekend if not fulfilled.

The squad must be declared and entered onto the official Match Sheet 15 minutes prior to kick off. This is to ensure the correct players undertake the *Speed Testing Protocol*.

Qualification of Players

Player Registration

A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:

- become a member of The Wheelchair Football Association and completed the online registration process prior to selection for any National League fixture. For more information and to register please visit <https://thewfa.org.uk/members/>
- completed FA Player Registration prior to selection for any National League fixture. For further details please contact your local county FA.

A player database will be set up on the FULL-TIME league web site. ***Please Note FULL-TIME is open to the public to view. Only player names will be shown on this site. The WFA and FA will only have access to the full database.***



Registration Fee

For any player participating in the WFA National League there will be a fee of £20 to become a playing member for the 2022/23 season.

If any player begins the season playing at a Regional League level only, whereby the fee is set at £10 and then registers to play within the National League mid-way through the season, they will be required to pay an additional £10 to reach the agreed £20 National League playing fee.

Registrations are valid for one playing season only

Player Nationality

Teams can register players of any Nationality.

Age Limit

There is an open age range for players to be eligible to participate in the WFA National League.

The minimum age for participants to complete in the National League is 11 Years Old. *This should be the players' age on 31st August 2022.*

Dispensation Process

If a club or clubs wish to register a player or players who are under the age of 11 they must apply for dispensation. Details on the application and criteria can be found by contacting the WFA National League secretary.

It is the responsibility of the Club and Team management to ensure adequate steps are taken to ensure the safety and well-being of all players. The safety of all competitors outside the Competition venue is at the responsibility of the Club.

No player will be considered eligible for National League competition until this process has been completed

Additional Player Registration/De-Registration

Teams may register a player (given they have not been previously registered for another National League Team during the 2022/23 National League Season) at any point during the 2022/23 National League Season. This must be completed a **minimum of 48 hours prior** to the player participating at a National League event.

De-registration

De-registration shall be deemed to be the same as a Transfer and all rules pertaining to Transfers shall apply.

Classification

All 2022/23 National League fixtures will be enforcing the current FIPFA Classification Rulebook.

All players will have completed the WFA Classification process (outlined in the FIPFA Classification Rulebook). Any players that do not meet the Powerchair Football Classification criteria will not be eligible to compete in both the Premiership and Championship competitions.



The WFA have set the criteria that Teams can field a **MAXIMUM of two (2) PF2 players** on court at any time.

Any player, who has not completed the Classification Process, will be initially classed as a **PF2**. The WFA Classification team will work to classify all new players within 2 weekends of their first participation.

It is the responsibility of the 'Team Coach' or individual player to arrange a classification appointment. In order to arrange a classification appointment the club and/or team coach are requested to contact WFA Head Of Classification to arrange the nearest possible appointment.

It is the responsibility of the 'Team Coach'/representative to make sure that during games their team is compliant with the rules of classification and that all players meet the classification criteria on the field of play. All communications relating to team classifications should be directed to the 4th official.

During substitutions the Match Official must ensure that at the end of the substitution all teams are still classification compliant on court.

If a team knowingly misrepresents a PF2 player as a PF1 player and through this action does not adhere to the rules of classification then the following sanctions will be applied:

- A walkover will be awarded to the opposition team.
- The Club will be fined **£100**.

TRANSFERS

Transfers

Transfers may take place between teams only if all proper protocols have been observed. A transfer form must be completed by both team Secretaries and submitted to the WFA League Secretary.

An administration fee of **£20.00** will be applied for each transfer request. The transfer fee shall be made payable by the players new Team. Payment must be made before the transferred player can play.

Player transfers must also be registered with The FA Player Registration system.

Where a player has already registered with another Team in the national league an approach can only be made between the Secretaries of the Member Teams concerned.

No player shall be transferred more than once during a season, or outside of the Transfer Window. The *WFA League Management Panel* reserve the right to waive this rule for extenuating circumstances. Any extenuating circumstances or special cases for transfer will be reviewed and voted on by members of the WFA League Management Panel

Transfer Window

Teams shall not be allowed to transfer a player into their club after 26th August 2022 to 12th December and after Friday 10th February 2023 until the conclusion of the season. These dates apply for both divisions.

Please note that unregistered players can be registered at any team during the season.

No more than two players may be transferred from the same Team in the same season, although the *WFA League Management Panel* reserves the right to waive this rule in special cases.

Once players register and become members via the WFA website they are deemed to have 'signed and registered' with that club for the full season. If a player wishes to move after this point then they must follow the transfer regulations above.

This must be completed a **minimum of 48 hours prior** to the player participating at a National League event.

Player Association with other member teams

Players may train with other member teams other than his/her own; only with prior agreement of the Manager of his/her official club and also that of the WFA League Management Panel and only if seven (7) days' notice in writing has been given to both parties. Any member team that does not follow these procedures will have been deemed to have made an illegal approach and shall be subject to the penalties incurred for that offence.

Illegal Approach

Teams suspecting an illegal approach to one of their players shall report the incident to WFA. Any club appealing against a decision can do so within seven (7) days and a fee of £25 will be required, which will be returned if decision upheld.

Ineligible Players

If a Team is found to have fielded an ineligible player or players during a WFA National League fixture, they shall have all points deducted for that fixture and the opposition team will be awarded a walkover. The team will be deducted 5 points and will have to pay a £25 fine. The Team shall also be answerable to the WFA League Management Panel who will decide any further action.

Club Colours

All Teams' must provide both Home and Away playing strips and register the colour of their shirts during the affiliation process.

Home and Away kits must be of contrasting colours. Shirts and sleeves will be considered when assessing a clash. The away team will change if there is a clash.

Goalkeeper shirts should contrast to outfield players on both sides and the opposition Goalkeeper. The use of a bib is prohibited. Goalkeepers must wear a shirt with, at minimum, short sleeves. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £50

Please see additional guidance on goalkeeper shirt modifications / options

Player Numbers

All players must display a Squad Number in two (2) places whilst participating in a match.



These numbers must be displayed on:

- Rear of Chair
- Visible position on the shirt (if no visible position on shirt is available then a visible position on front of chair may be used)

All Players Numbers must be in between the range 1 – 99.

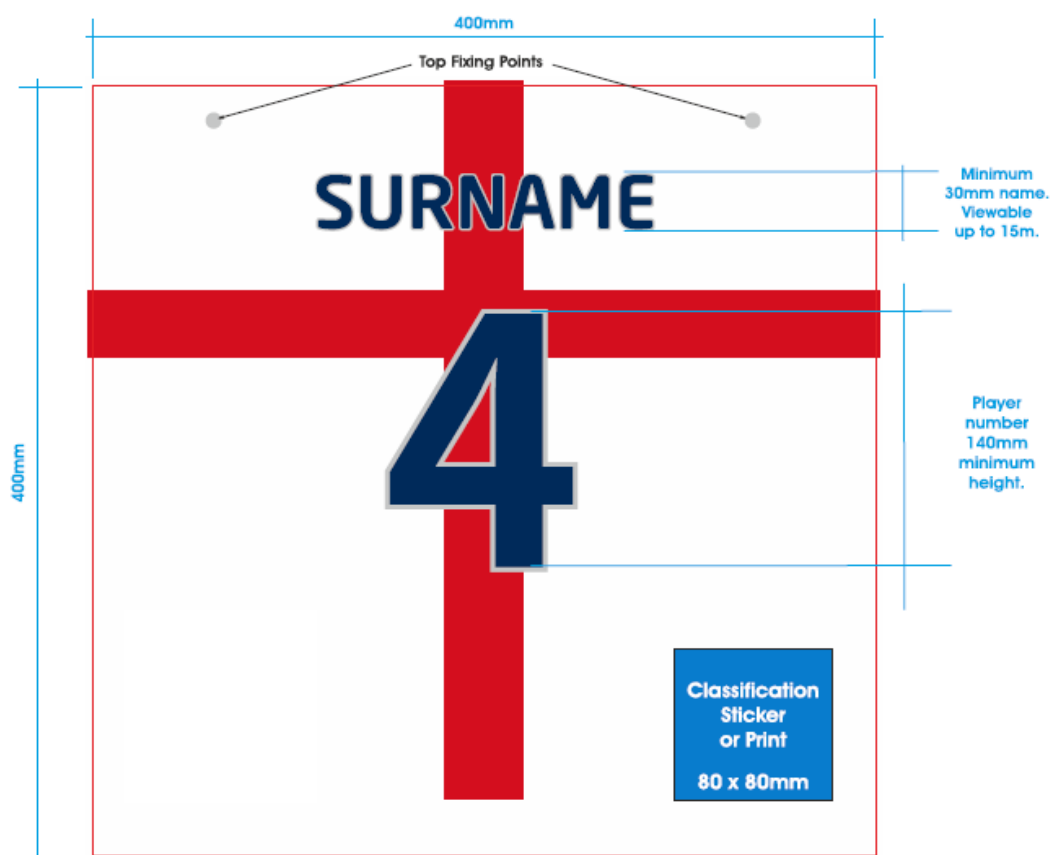
The front and rear number must be the same.

Specification:

Rear Numbers

Player numbers should be clearly displayed on the rear of the chairs and be a minimum of 400mm square, printed onto a suitable substrate such as a PVC banner material.

The following information is to be displayed; the players name (*surname only*) a minimum caps height of 50mm. The player number to be a minimum height of 140mm. It is also to display the league sponsor logo and have the players classification displayed, both of these are 80mm square and if a player's classification changes a new decal can be applied over the top. There is not a mandatory typeface for the name or number, however choose one which is clearly legible (Not a thin serif type). The colour of the font must be in contrast (clearly visible) to the background. The number should be fixed at the top and additional fixings at the bottom to prevent the number spinning out when the chair is turning quickly. The background/image can be in team colours and a club logo can be added alongside the number.



Front Number

The front number needs to be displayed at a suitable point on the front of the chair or player so that the referee can easily see it. One suggestion is that it hangs off of the players control unit; it can also be on the player's shirt or harness as long as it can be

seen without obstruction. The number is to be 50mm high and have a suitable colour background so it is visible.

Sponsors Logos and Advertising

Any Sponsorship and advertising logos that may be present on Club or Team clothing, kit, playing equipment or wheelchairs cannot be against the legal requirements of the WFA and cannot be considered offensive by any Club/Team involved.

Any such Logos will have to be removed before participation in any part of the WFA National League.

All sponsorship and advertising logos must comply with FA Advertising Regulations. More information on these regulations and a guide can be found at <http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/more/kit-advertising>

Powerchair Speed Testing

All Powerchairs will be subject to the **WFA Speed Testing Process – APPENDIX (B)**, prior to their participation in any WFA National League Match. Any changes can be made to the wheelchair, to enable it to pass this test.

Once it has completed the **WFA Speed Testing Process** it is the responsibility of the player and their Club to ensure no tampering takes place.

The Match Officials may request at half time or at the conclusion of the match, any Powerchair to be retested.

The WFA also reserve the right to conduct random Speed Testing to ensure the enforcement of these rules. A minimum of one (1) player from each team may be asked to undertake a Speed Test at the conclusion of every match.

Failure of Requested or Random Speed Test

If a players Wheelchair fails a Match Officials Requested Speed Test after following the testing process (**Appendix B**), the following sanctions will be enforced:

- The match result will be forfeited and awarded to the opposing team as a walkover
- The guilty player will be awarded a one (1) match suspension.
- The Club may face a financial fine of up to £50 (Fifty pounds).

If a players Wheelchair fails a Random WFA Speed Test, the following sanctions will be enforced:

- The match result will be forfeited and awarded to the opposing team as a walkover
- The guilty player will be awarded a one (1) match suspension.
- The Club may face a financial fine of up to £50 (Fifty pounds).

Chair Technical Specification

All chairs playing in the 2022/2023 WFA National League season must meet the chair specification described in appendix D.

Prior to the game, alongside the speed test, each player shall drive his or her chair into the designated area as central as possible. A WFA Official (Technical Committee Member) will firstly identify what category of chair it is from the three categories set out in appendix D.

Providing the chair fits within the designated area, the official(s) shall then begin to work their way through the chair sanctioning test sheet, ticking the boxes in the column that apply to the chair they are reviewing.

Once a chair has been checked prior to the game, a player must NOT alter anything to the chair. When undergoing the sanctioning test, the player must present themselves ready to play, for example in terms of seating position. This is similar in terms of the speed of a chair must not be altered after speed testing.

A chair failing to meet the criteria will not be allowed to play. A player may resubmit a chair for sanctioning once any changes or required alterations have been made.

Chair Tyres

All tyres must be non-marking to avoid damaging the playing surface. No solutions or sprays are permitted to be added to the tyres, which may result in leaving residue on the surface. If a referee or the WFA League Management Panel believes that tyres are damaging or marking the floor, the wheelchair will be prohibited for use in a game until they are changed and tested.

Failure to comply with this, and if a player is found to have fallen outside of the chair specification after the game is complete (e.g. has altered their chair position), this could result in loss of the game or a ban. The league management panel will meet to discuss the outcome of this.

Player Discipline and Suspensions

Yellow Cards

If a player receives a Yellow card, the Club will receive an administration charge of **£10.00**.

This fee MUST be paid within 14 days from the date of the formal letter from the WFA. If this fee is outstanding after this date, the player will become ineligible for team selection.

If a player receives Three (3) Yellow cards during the League Season, then they will receive a one (1) match suspension. The suspension will be enforced for the next WFA National League fixture that team is due to play. This includes WFA cup matches. If a player receives six (6) yellow cards in a season they will receive a three (3) match ban and may be asked to appear before the League Management Committee.

Temporary Dismissals

Also known as "sin bins", temporary dismissals will be used in powerchair football. As well as a yellow card, a temporary dismissal will be issued at the discretion of referees as punishment for dissent.

If a player receives a yellow card for dissent, they will be temporarily dismissed for a 4-minute time period. There is no administration charge for a temporary dismissal.

All other cautionable offences are punished with a caution as normal.

- If a player who has been temporarily dismissed and then receives a caution for a separate offence can continue to play.
- If a player who has received a caution and then receives a temporary dismissal can continue playing after the end of their temporary dismissal period
- If a player who receives a second temporary dismissal in the same match will serve the temporary dismissal and then takes no further part in the match. The player may be replaced by a substitute at the end of the second temporary dismissal period.
 - If a PF1 is temporarily dismissed twice in a match and the team only has two (2) PF1's within their squad, they will have to complete the match with 3 players.
- If a player receives a second temporary dismissal in the same match and has also received a caution for another yellow card offence cannot take any further part in the match and the player cannot be replaced/substituted.
- If a player who receives a second caution (YC) in the same match will be sent off and takes no further part in the match and may not be replaced/substituted

If a team becomes less than 2 players due to multiple temporary dismissals during any game, then the match is abandoned with the opposition team being awarded the game by walkover.

Red Cards

Disciplinary Procedures for Red Card Offences

'Serious' Red Card Offences'

Offences not classified in the table below will be the responsibility of the local County FA. Once the County FA has reviewed the case the Wheelchair Football Association, along with the player, will be informed of the outcome and any disciplinary action. The match official is required complete a Disciplinary Report, as part of all National League Match sheets after the completion of the match and submit a report and the relevant County FA.

'Less Serious' Red Card Offences'

Offences classified within the table below will be dealt with by the Wheelchair Football Association under the delegated-authority of the County FA.

The match official is required complete a Disciplinary Report, as part of all National League Match sheets after the completion of the match.

The Wheelchair Football Association employ the following disciplinary tariff of suspensions in such cases as outlined on the next page.

If a player receives a Red card, the club will receive an administration charge of **£10.00**. Depending on the nature and severity of the offence, the player will also be fined in addition to the administration charge:

Offence resulting in a 1 game ban - **£10.00 fine**

Offence resulting in a 2 game ban - **£15.00 fine**

Offence resulting in a 3 game ban or greater - **£20.00 fine**

This fee MUST be paid within 14 days from the date of issue. If this fee is outstanding after this date, the player will become ineligible for team selection.

Match Suspension Tariff:

OFFENCE	PENALTY (TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE WHEELCHAIR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION)
Receiving a second 'yellow card' in the same match	1 Match suspension
Denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring	1 Match suspension
Use of offensive, insulting or abusive gestures	2 Match suspension
Attempting to kick or strike another player Violent conduct Serious foul play	3 Match suspension

'Serious' Red Card Offences example:

Spitting Gross Misconduct	6 Match suspension
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Suspensions will be enforced for the players next WFA National League fixture. This also includes WFA Cup Matches.

If a player is suspended for a Gross Misconduct offence the Wheelchair Football Association will exclude the player for the remainder of the league event, whereby the offence will be reviewed. The number of games missed during the exclusion period will be considered when making a final disciplinary decision.

Match Outcomes and Results

After the forty (40) minutes of match play have been completed, the team with the most goals scored will be awarded three (3) points and the opposing team will be awarded zero (0) points.

If the number of goals is equal between the teams, then both sides will be awarded one (1) point.

At the end of the League Season, the team with the greatest number of points will be crowned Champions. The team with the second most points as the Runner up. The remaining teams will be ranked in this way. If two or more teams are tied for the same number of points, a determination must be made as to which is the higher placed one(s), the following criteria will be used:

- a) The highest position shall be awarded to the team with the greater goal difference against all other teams during the tournament (goal differential).

b) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position shall be awarded to the team scoring the greatest number of total goals against all other teams during the tournament (total goals).

c) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position shall be based on head to head competition during the season.

d) If the head to head outcome is a draw the highest position shall be awarded to the team with the fewest team disciplinary points (cautions (yellow cards) are one (1) disciplinary point, send offs (red cards) are three (3) disciplinary points).

e) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position in the standings shall be determined by a Penalty shoot-out. This Penalty shoot-out will take place immediately after the final League game.

Forfeits

A forfeit counts as a loss with the winning team getting three (3) points, per game. If a team should leave the competition for any reason, then all of their scheduled fixtures will be void to avoid any issues with goal difference.

All teams in the National League are required to have at least 6 registered players in their squads and should travel with sufficient time (allowing for hold-ups) to meet the schedule of games on any given match day. Teams are expected to play with 3 team members, in the event that their squad becomes depleted on any given match day, or during a weekend.

In the unfortunate event of a team unable to attend a scheduled National league fixture, the WFA League Management Panel will meet to discuss the best possible solution. If the Tournament Panel determines that this relates to:

- the circumstances relating to the management of the squad in preparation for the season and prior to the match day
- travel arrangements and circumstances before and on match day

If it is indicated that a set of unusual, uncommon and/or unpredictable events has led to the request to reschedule then the team who missed the fixture will be encouraged to rearrange the game at a suitable time for both clubs. In order to facilitate this the "home" team will be requested to offer three (3) reasonable dates (allowing travel time and with consideration for the opposing teams circumstances) for the travelling club to attend. It is the team who missed the scheduled fixtures' responsibility to travel to the opposing team and cover all the relevant costs in order for the game to take place. If the travelling club cannot attend one of the three offered dates the match will be forfeited and the points awarded to the home team.

A failure to offer 3 reasonable dates will result in the matter being referred to the League Management Committee who will then make a final decision on a match resolution with no right to appeal.

All games relating to this regulation are required to be completed by 3 June 2023. If a fixture cannot be completed by this time the 3 points will be awarded to the home team.

If the League Management Panel determine that the pre-season, match-week and match-day arrangements have not been consistent with the standards expected of

a National League club, then a decision may be made to forfeit the game. In the event of a forfeit, three (3) points will be awarded to the opposition team. A forfeit in relation to this will also result in a two (2) point deduction per match (up to a maximum of five (5) points per weekend) and fine of Forty (40) pounds per match.

WFA Cancellation

Should the WFA cancel or forfeit any matches during the WFA Season, the WFA League Management Panel will decide on the best course of action to resolve any outstanding fixtures and will always do its upmost best to fulfil the fixtures before cancelling them.

This may result in the alteration of the format of a League division or the Voiding of matches.

The WFA League Management Panel decision will be final and cannot be appealed against. The WFA will ensure any decisions are as fair as possible on all Clubs and Teams.

Game Defaults

If a team becomes less than 2 players (due to Red Cards or insufficient number of replacements) during any game, then the match is abandoned and with the opposition team being awarded the game by walkover.

Results of games terminated before time and not as a result of a forfeit or default are referred to the WFA League Management Committee. The decision of the panel is final and cannot be appealed against.

Maximum Number of Games per team per Day

There shall never be more than three (3) games per team in one day. No team will play consecutive games on the same day. There will be a minimum of a one (1) hour break between games.

i.e. the Final whistle of one game and kick off time of the next fixture.

Official Match Sheets

For all National League fixtures, electronic Match Sheets will be used. A WFA volunteer or the Match Official will be responsible to the completion of the Match Sheet.

It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to provide all required information for entry onto the Match Sheet. They must also check and sign to ensure all information is correct at the conclusion of the match.

WFA Official Match Sheets

Team Managers must submit their squad information 15 minutes prior to kick-off and before the Speed Test can be started.

Teams can declare a maximum squad of eight (8) players per game, with four players starting the game. The remaining players can be used as Substitutes during the match.

The Match Sheets must be checked, agreed and signed by the Team Manager, at the Full-Time whistle. **Failure by any team manager to sign and complete the match sheets/electronic media may result in a fine or loss of the game.**

Please note: It is the responsibility of the Team Managers to ensure Match Sheet information has been correctly recorded and must sign to confirm this.

Pre-Event Management Briefing

All team managers and secretaries will be sent a briefing email before each weekend. Teams are responsible for checking their emails and making sure we have the correct contact information. Teams are also responsible for making sure they pass on any important information as well as making sure that teams turn up on time for their games.

Any email updates may be sent up until twelve (12) hours before the kick of the first game. (Please check your emails on a Friday evening.)

Pre-Match Routine

Match Sheet information

Team managers must submit all information to the Match Official and gather the team ready to be called for Speed Testing. All players should be ready and on court 15 minutes prior to the kick-off time. (Teams maybe held off-court if previous matches have been delayed.)

Speed Test

All team members will be called to be Speed Tested. Each player must be accompanied by the Team Manager (or other identified person) to support the Match Officials with the Speed Testing process.

The Home Team will given priority for speed testing and will be completed first unless in the opinion of the match referee adequate opportunity has been given then the away team will be tested to avoid any possible time delay.

Should a player fail his/her first speed test before the game, they will now be allowed two (2) further retests prior to kick off. If a player registers within the required speed test readings on their first retest, a second retest will not be required.

Should a player fail their initial speed test and their allocated two retests before the match, they will not be allowed to participate in the first half of that match but they will be permitted a further retest at half time of the game.

Warm Up

All teams will have the opportunity to warm up for five minutes after both teams have been speed tested. Teams will be restricted to the half of the field where their technical area is located. Teams will not be allowed to strike balls in the direction of the other team's area during warm-up.

Coin Toss

Both Team Captains will be called to the centre by the Match Officials where they will participate in a coin toss to determine field position and Kick-off.

Kick Off



If a team (minimum of two (2) players) is not ready to kick off 15 minutes after the official kick-off time of the match, the match may be forfeited; this is at the discretion of the referee and League Management Committee.

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referees

Number

A minimum of one (1) referee per match is required. This Referee will be assigned as the Match Referee. A further two Referees will be assigned as Assistant Referees. This will allow each match to have 3 independent Match officials.

If Assistant Referees are not available, the WFA may request that participating Teams provide one (1) volunteer that will be assigned as Assistant Referees for a match. The team volunteer shall be registered by The **WFA** as having successfully completed the online assistant referee's course or completed the classroom Referee's course. Each team will inform the Head of Referee Development the names of at least two (2) such individuals, seven (7) days before the first event of each division.

The team volunteer Assistant Referee shall:

- Respect the code of conduct
- Assist the referee only in decisions of the ball leaving play and "3 in the box"
- Not coach the team they represent (if applicable)
- Not question referee's decisions.

In the instance that the requested Club does not provide an appropriate Assistant Referee, they will be fined.

The fine for the first failure to provide an appropriate Assistant Referee will be £50. The fine will increase for each match instance thereafter to a maximum of £200. There is no right of appeal for fines relating to failure to provide an appropriate Assistant referee. Teams can only appeal to individual match fines above £50.

In addition, the Head of Referee Development will contact the club and agree a resolution to help stop further instances.

Each team that does not have an active, certified referee must endeavour to provide a candidate on the next available Referee course in their region. The Head of Referee Development will contact such teams to facilitate participation. It is the intent that appropriate penalties will be implemented in season 2023/24 and thereafter for team's that do not participate in this development to increase The **WFA's** referee capability.

4th Official

Each match will have a 4th Official. The 4th Official will be responsible for operating the Match Clock, maintaining possession of the Match Form, ensuring the team management remain within the technical areas and dealing with any other match related incidents.

The WFA are working to identify event volunteers who can carry out these duties, but if they are not available the Match Referee will ask the "home team" (as stipulated on the match sheet) to provide a volunteer.

All four (4) officials will work as a unit to ensure the rules of the game are adhered to.

Allocation

Match and Assistant Referees will be allocated by the WFA Head of Referee Development. Allocations will be made available on Full-Time by 9am on the Monday before each event.

Certification

All referees must have the appropriate WFA certification.

Referee Rating

At the conclusion of the match, the Team Management must rate the Referee's performance out of 100.

*Please see **Appendix E** for guidance on how to calculate a rating.*

*PLEASE NOTE: Any rating of 40 or less will require the Team Management to submit a report explaining the reason for this low rating. This report must be sent to the League Secretary **within 48 hours** of the fixture finishing. If this is not received within that time frame then no further action will be taken.*

Protest Procedure

During the WFA National League, a Team may wish to lodge a protest regarding an event that has taken place.

A protest concerning a particular game and any incidents which occurred during that game may be lodged, if it is alleged that a REGULATION was incorrectly applied or enforced by the referee.

There can be no protests or challenges relating to in-game interpretations/applications of the Laws of the Game. Only breaches of competition rules may be challenged.

Any Team wishing to lodge a Protest, must follow the *Protest Procedure* outlined in Appendix (C)

All protests will be dealt with by the **WFA League Management Panel** Appendix (A).

All decisions of the WFA League Management Committee are subject to appeal to The FA in accordance with the Regulations for Football Association Appeals. Any rulings will all be reviewed at the conclusion of the season. The resulting rulings will then be discussed by WFA and may be included in the Regulations for subsequent seasons.

Coaching & dual roles across the national league

Coaches are eligible to coach different teams in the national league, on the basis they are in different divisions. Should any instance occur whereby both teams are in the same division, they will only be permitted to coach one team.

This also applies to registered players who hold a coaching role with another team. If both teams are within the same division, the player can only be linked to one team.

EXCEPTIONS

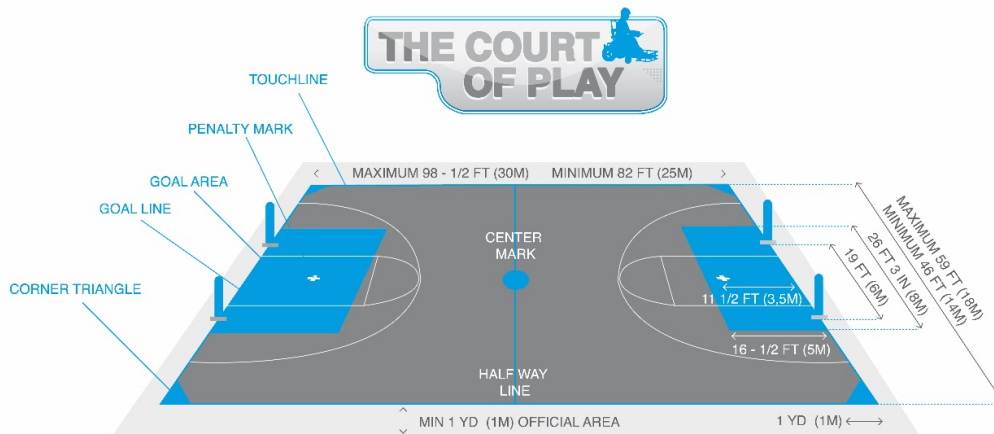
Any exception to these League regulations must be approved, in advance, by the WFA Executive Committee.

Any exception that arises during the National League Season will be referred to the WFA League Management committee (See Appendix A). The WFA League Management Panel will deliberate and a ruling will be made within 7 days.

All decisions of the WFA League Management Committee are subject to appeal to The FA in accordance with the Regulations for Football Association Appeals. Any rulings will all be reviewed at the conclusion of the season. The resulting rulings will then be discussed by WFA and may be included in the Regulations for subsequent seasons.

Appendix 2

WFA NATIONAL LEAGUE EVENT REQUIREMENTS 2022/23 Season



Technical Areas

The technical area will be located and identified in an appropriate area within the sports hall.

Coaches - A maximum of two (2) coaches from each team are permitted on the side lines during a game and they should be on the same side of the pitch, opposite from the opposing coaches.

Spectators Area

All spectators must be restricted to the area outside the playing court, on the balcony or downstairs viewing area at Lee Westwood Sports Centre. Spectators are not allowed on or around the field of play.

Footballs

All WFA National League matches must only be played using WFA sanctioned footballs. These footballs must carry the printed wording 'WFA approved size & weight'

Score Board

For the benefit of spectators and coaches, a visual scoring system must be maintained. The scoreboard must be visible at all times from the team technical area.

Clock

For the benefit of the spectators the scoreboard must include a game clock (unofficial).

Score table officials

Each match will have a 4th Official.

This official will keep unofficial time and maintain the Score Board. They control the WFA Match Sheet by recording scorers, cautions etc, as well as ensuring that the Match Sheet are fully completed (signed by the coaches, referee scores, player of the match and signed by referee).

INSURANCE

All teams will be covered by the following insurance at all WFA National League Events:

- Civil liability Insurance to the value of £10,000,000.
- Teams will be insured for all league fixtures.
- Cover is provided by Bluefin on behalf of Catlin Underwriting Agencies Ltd
- Personal Accident Insurance – provided by Aviva Insurance Limited

Players may wish to take out their own Insurance policy, on top of the insurance that the WFA has put in place.

TROPHY & AWARD SPECIFICATIONS

WFA Premiership League Trophy WFA Championship League Trophy

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:

"We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chair and Secretary of [] PFC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and the cup or trophy having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before []. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Perpetual WFA National League Trophies will also be provided by WFA.

League Awards

Player Awards

- WFA Premiership Winner Medals for Players and Coaches (maximum 8).
- WFA Championship Winner Medals for Players and Coaches (maximum 8).

Individual Awards

WFA Premiership Top Goal scorer.

WFA Championship Top Goal scorer.

WFA Premiership Goal of the Season

WFA Championship Goal of the Season

WFA Premiership Coaches player of the season

WFA Championship Coaches player of the season

WFA Premiership Players' Player of the Season

WFA Championship Players' Player of the Season

WFA Premiership young player of the season (16 and under at beginning of season)

WFA Championship young player of the season (16 and under at beginning of season)

Each registered player in each division will vote for their individual player of the season. (This cannot be a player from their own team)

Team Award

Fair Play Award – This will be decided by the WFA officials.



Appendix 3

WFA NATIONAL LEAGUE FORMAT 2022/23 Season

Fixture Dates

All fixtures will be played over a series of events on 5 weekends per division. The events will take place on the following dates:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| • 3rd & 4 th September 2022 | Championship Division |
| • 10 th & 11 th September 2022 | Premiership Division |
| • 19 th & 20 th November 2022 | Championship Division |
| • 10 th & 11 th December 2022 | Premiership Division |
| • 18 th & 19 th February 2023 | Championship Division |
| • 18 th & 19 th March 2023 | Premiership Division |
| • 1 st & 2 nd April 2023 | Championship Division |
| • 15 th & 16 th April 2023 | Premiership Division |
| • 27 th & 28 th May 2023 | Championship Division |
| • 3 rd & 4 th June 2023 | Premiership Division |
| • 10 th & 11 th June 2022 | WFA EoS fixtures & Awards Evening |

Pitches

All games will be played across 2 pitches (Referred to as Pitch A and Pitch B).

Saturday Kick off times:

- 09:15
- 10:30
- 11:45
- 13:00
- 14:15
- 15:30
- 16:45

Sunday Kick off times:

- 09:15
- 10:30
- 11:45
- 13:00
- 14:15
- 15:30
- 16:45* (*x1 Sunday during the season for both divisions)

League Structure

Divisions

The 2022/23 Season will be run in two (2) divisions.

1. WFA Premiership.
2. WFA Championship.

Premiership Structure

- 5 weekends = 10 days
- 12 teams
- Teams play each other 2 times = 132 games (22 each)

Championship Structure

- 5 weekends = 10 days
- 12 teams
- Teams play each other 2 times = 132 games (22 each)

Maximum number of teams in national league from any one club

Only two (2) teams from any one club shall be permitted to participate in the competition. This can be across a single division or both divisions.

Promotion and Relegation

Premiership

- The Teams finishing in 11th / 12th positions in the Premiership League Table will be relegated to the Championship division for the 2022/23 season.
- The Team finishing in 1st/ 2nd positions of the Championship League Table will be promoted to the Premiership division for the 2022/23 season.
- The Team finishing in 10th position in the Premiership League Table will play off against the team finishing 3rd in the Championship League Table for a place in the Premiership division for the 2022/23 season.
- Should any other Premiership Team not participate in the 2022/23 season, the next lowest ranked team from the previous season will replace the affected team

Championship

- The Team finishing in 1st/ 2nd positions of the Championship League Table will be promoted to the Premiership division for the 2022/23 season.
- The Team finishing in 3rd position in the Championship League Table will play off against the team finishing 10th in the Premiership League Table for a place in the Premiership division for the 2020/21 season.
- The Teams finishing in 11th / 12th positions of the Championship League Table will be subject to participation in the WFA League Entry Play-off (subject to the number of entries received).
- Should a team not be able to participate in the competition, the next lowest ranked team from the previous season will replace the affected team

2022/23 Season Entry

All current National League Teams are guaranteed entry for the 2022/23 season (subject to Promotion and Relegation above).

If a Team wishes to withdraw, they must inform the WFA by **31st March 2022**. *Any Teams that withdraws after this date, may incur a fine to cover League costs.*

The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

WFA League Entry Play-off

A maximum of two (2) teams will be eligible to gain entry for 2022/23 National League competition. They will qualify through the WFA league play-off process.

Teams can nominate themselves for entry into the league play-off process. Nominations from all regions are welcomed. If multiple teams from the same region nominate themselves, they will be graded in the areas listed below.

1. Participation in their regional league
2. League position in their respective regional league
3. England Football Accredited Club status

Priority will be given to the team who fulfil the criteria listed above. If other regions do not have a nominated team, the second team from the region will be considered as their replacement.

If a Team wishes to enter, they must complete their nomination to the WFA by **31st March 2023**.

For more information on the format of this event please contact the National League Secretary leaguesecretary@thewfa.org.uk. The event format can vary, depending on the number of teams registered to take part in the League Entry-play off.

There will be an entry fee of £50 for teams from outside of the National League.

Play-off process

This section describes the structure of the incoming Championships teams' play-off fixtures. The teams finishing 11th and 12th will participate in the play-offs. Up to six (6) additional teams may participate in the Entry Championship Play-Offs.

A draw shall be made to allocate incoming teams to letters A, B, C, D, etc

If zero (0) incoming teams participate, no play-off match is necessary.

Teams positioned 11th and 12th shall remain in the Championship division.

If one (1) incoming team, A participates, no draw is necessary.

Team positioned 11th shall remain in the Championship division.

Team positioned 12th will play A.

The winner takes a place in the Championship division.

If two (2) incoming teams, A and B participate.

11th will play A.

12th will play B.

The winner of each match takes a place in the Championship division.

If three (3) incoming teams, A, B and C participate.

12th will play B.

A will play C.

The loser of these matches will play each other.

11th will play the winner of A v C

The winner of the losers match will play the winner of 12th v B

The winner of each match takes a place in the Championship division.

If four (4) incoming teams, A, B, C and D participate.

A will play B.
C will play D.

11th will play the winners of A vs B.
12th will play the winners of the other match.
The winner of each match takes a place in the Championship division.

If five (5) incoming teams, A, B, C, D and E participate.

12th will play A.
B will play C.
D will play E.

11th will play the winner of B vs C.
The winner of 12th vs A will play the winner of D vs E
The winner of each match takes a place in the Championship division.

If six (6) incoming teams, A, B, C, D, E and F participate.

11th will play A.
12th will play B.
C will play D.
E will play F.

The winner of 11th vs A will play the winner of C vs D.
The winner of 12th vs B will play the winner of E vs F.
The winner of each match takes a place in the Championship division.

WFA League Entry Play-off Player Registration

Any player registered with a National League team for the 2022/23 season, will be eligible to register for another team for the WFA League Entry Play off event on the basis that they de-register for their National League team during the transfer window.

The WFA National League Secretary must be informed by the National League club and the player themselves (player parent/guardian for under 18's) so their registration can be removed during the transfer window.

A list of de-registered players will be established ahead of WFA League Entry Play-off Player Registration.

A non-National League play-off entry team can only register a maximum of two (2) players that had been registered to a National League team at the beginning of the season.

A non-National League play-off entry team will need to provide a squad list in advance of the play-off weekend. This date will be decided by the league management committee and communicated in advance to participating clubs.

All players must be classified prior to the play-off weekend in order to participate.

Venues

All National League fixtures (Premiership and Championship) will be played at a central venue:

**Nottingham Trent University,
Lee Westwood Sports Centre,
Clifton Campus,
Nottingham, NG11 8NS.**



Appendix 4

WFA Powerchair Competition Risk Assessment

Event Name:	WFA National League
Location Address:	Nottingham Trent University, Clifton Lane, College Dr, Clifton, Nottingham NG11 8NS
Venue Name:	Lee Westwood Sports Centre
Date(s):	3rd 4th Sept 2022 – Championship week 1 10th 11th Sept 2022 – Premiership week 1 19th 20th Nov 2022 – Championship week 2 10th 11th Dec 2022 – Premiership week 2 18th 19th Feb 2023 – Championship week 3 18th 19th Mar 2023 – Premiership week 3 1st 2nd April 2023 – Championship week 4 15th 16th April 2023 – Premiership week 4 27th 28th May 2023 – Championship week 5 3rd 4th June 2023 – Premiership week 5 10th 11th June 2023 – End of season
Activity Manager and contact details:	Brian Dix, WFA Chairman – brian.dix@thewfa.org.uk Ant Nweke, National League Secretary – leaguesecretary@thewfa.org.uk Rob Thompson, WFA Vice Chair – rob.thompson@thewfa.org.uk
Name and contact details of person completing this form:	Adam McEvoy, National Development Manager – adam.mcevoy@thewfa.org.uk David Whyatt, NTU – David.whyatt@ntu.ac.uk



Details of Activity:	<p>This risk assessment covers the pitch activity for powerchair competitions and has been produced in accordance with FA and WFA policy and best practice.</p> <p>This risk assessment does not cover safeguarding – this is covered by separate specific risk assessments.</p>
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Emergency Arrangements	
First Aid:	Parent/carer will have most detailed knowledge if required for a player. NTU Sports Centre staff first aid trained.
Any person discovering a fire:	Raise alarm. If possible, make staff aware. Fire Action noticers are throughout venue with guidance
On hearing the fire alarm:	Head to nearest fire exit and assembly point away from building
Who will call for the Fire & Rescue service if needed:	NTU Duty Manager
Location of Assembly Point:	Sells Building

Nearest Emergency Services:	
The Queens Medical Centre West Bridgford Fire Service West Bridgford Police Station	Derby Rd, Nottingham NG7 2UH Loughborough Rd, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7FA Rectory Rd, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6BN

Event Managers Declaration:			
I have read this document and am satisfied that:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It constitutes a suitable and sufficient risk assessment in respect of the activity and that the precautions identified are sufficient to control the risks. Appropriate arrangements are in place to communicate the risk assessment findings and to co-ordinate the safety arrangements of all those affected, e.g. competitors, spectators, venue, volunteers etc. 			
Name of Event Owner / Organiser:		Date:	

Introduction

These Risk Assessments have been drawn up in accordance with the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999* to identify the significant hazards presented during the event and to describe how the risks arising from such hazards will be controlled.

This document is an over-arching accompaniment to any activity specific risk assessments provided by the participating teams and venue: it is not exhaustive. This assessment covers on-pitch activities and not those associated with the wider event.

The process of risk assessment is on-going, with dynamic assessments being conducted, as required, by competent staff throughout the event. It is possible that the assessments in this document may be amended or augmented as new risks are identified or more refined control systems developed.

Risk Rating

Each assessment identifies two risk ratings; the initial risk which assesses the hazard without any design, engineering or management controls in place.

The residual rating gives an indication of the resulting level of danger once all the controls identified have been implemented. For ease of reading these assessments have not utilised on simple grading of risk from high to negligible.

The risk rating has been drawn from the following table:

	Consequence					
Likelihood		1 Inconsequential (e.g. No Injury)	2 Minor Injury (e.g. First Aid)	3 Moderate (e.g. Lost-Time Injury)	4 Major (e.g. Extensive Injuries)	5 Catastrophic (e.g. Fatality)
	1 Rare	1	2	3	4	5
	2 Unlikely	2	4	6	8	10
	3 Possible	3	6	9	12	15
	4 Likely	4	8	12	16	20
	5 Almost Certain	5	10	15	20	25

1-7	Low Risk	No additional controls are required.
8-11	Medium Risk	Additional control measures should be considered.
12-25	High Risk	Additional controls must be implemented to reduce the risk to medium/low.

Related Documents

WFA National League/Regional League Rules

FIPFA Classification

Task or Activity:	Powerchair Competition Matches – on pitch activities		
Hazards:	Impact / Collision injuries, Damage to Equipment, Exacerbation of existing medical Conditions.		
Likelihood:	4 – Likely	Severity:	4– Major Injury
Persons at Risk:	Players, Referees & Assistants, Volunteers, Spectators		
Initial Risk Rating:	High		
Existing Controls:			
Players / Chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Players will use specialist chairs compliant with WFA Technical specification.• Coaches will ensure that the players are in teams that match their ability and classification rules are observed.• Any medical equipment will be appropriately secured / stashed within the frame of the powerchair.• Speed testing will be carried out.• All players will be appropriately classified in accordance with the FIPFA classification process (National League level)			

- Appropriate seat belts / restraints will be used in accordance with players classification and medical needs.

Ball

- A specialised ball meeting the requirements of the WFA National League/Regional League Rules will be used.
- Bounce will be minimised by ensuring that the ball is not over-inflated. This will be checked by the referee.

Venue / Equipment

- The activity will take place at an appropriate venue which is suitable for powerchair use.
- Goal posts will not be fixed and will be of a suitable size and weight to prevent impact injuries.
- Pitchside equipment will be kept to a minimum.

Referees & Assistant Referees

- All referees and assistant referees will have undertaken specific powerchair refereeing training.
- Matches will be played in accordance with the WFA National League/Regional League Rules & regulations.
- There will be a 'run-off' area as described in the WFA National League/Regional League Rules & regulations to allow assistant referees suitable room to avoid collisions with players and chairs.
- Referees are responsible for ensuring that all equipment is appropriately maintained and is fit for purpose prior to games commencing.
- Play will be stopped if there is an immediate concern regarding a player's medical condition.

Players Assistants (This definition covers those assisting players with medical conditions / personal care such as carers, parents or any other person accompanying the player to provide aid or assistance)

- Carers are responsible for ensuring players are ok to in terms of medical equipment / health and wellbeing, etc.
- All carers should remain within the vicinity of the venue for the matches in which they have players participating in.

Spectators

- The number of people on the pitch will be kept to a minimum.
- Where possible all viewing should be via a designated spectator area.

Further Action Required:

- All players should undergo the classification process and have received an PF1 or PF2. classification prior to competing (National League level)
- Appropriate restraints should not include bungee straps to secure players or equipment.
- Run off areas should be adhered to and kept clear at all times.
- No child spectators should enter the pitch or run off areas during play.
- Players with long hair should have it secured, so that it cannot get entangled in equipment.

- Players must not wear scarves or any items of clothing that could become caught or entangled during play, for risk of being entangled in equipment. If the neck needs to be covered a snood is a better alternative.

	Residual Risk Rating: LOW (2 x 3)	

APPENDIX (A)

GOVERNANCE

The WFA League Management Panel

Responsibilities of the WFA League Management Committee

The WFA League Management Committee will be responsible for the running and organisation of all WFA National League events. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The WFA or The FA.

They shall be responsible for ensuring the necessary standards in all technical matters during the league season including:

- a) the field and its marking;
- b) the conduct of the tournament;
- c) scheduling and evaluation of referees;
- d) ratification of score sheets and production of official results;
- e) Game equipment, excluding individual players equipment;

Any panel will consist of a minimum of three (3) but ideally five (5) of the following people:

- 1. Rob Thompson – WFA Vice Chairperson
- 2. Anthony Nweke – WFA National League Secretary
- 3. Mark Kerrison – WFA Head of Refereeing
- 4. Sarah Smith – WFA Classification Representative
- 5. Jon Bolding – WFA Player Representative
- 6. Cath McNicol – WFA Welfare Officer
- 7. Adam Langley – WFA Fixtures Secretary
- 8. Adam McEvoy – WFA National Development Manager
- 9. Nick Woodward – WFA Consultant & Technical advisor

This Panel will use its understanding and experience of Powerchair Football to resolve any matters that are referred to it. For any decisions to be made by this Panel a majority vote must be achieved.

If any of the Panel may have a personal interest in the outcome or decision of this Panel, the remaining members will select a suitable replacement until the particular matter has been resolved. For a replacement member to be selected onto this Panel, the remaining members must reach a Unanimous decision.

Any decisions by this panel will be made:

- a) Within One (1) hour for an incident that directly effects the running or causes delay to a league event
- b) Within Seven (7) days for all other matters

These decisions will remain in place until the conclusion of the **2022/23 WFA National League Season**.

APPENDIX (B)

Speed Testing Protocol – “Rolling Road”

In order to ensure the consistency and to level the playing field for all official WFA Events and Competitions it is necessary to ensure that the Powerchairs used do not exceed the maximum speed of 10kmph (6.2 mph) as stated in the Official Rules and Regulations of the game.

This Rule applies to both the forwards and backwards speed of the chair and all Powerchairs used in any given game are to be tested prior to the game commencing. All players must present themselves ready for match and for speed testing a minimum of 15 minutes before the scheduled kick off time.

PROTOCOL – Pre-Match

- Rolling Road Test
- The chair must be secured at front and back (if required) on the rolling road equipment so that it does not move but not so tight as to slow the chair during the test.
- The referee conducting the speed test pushes the controller forward fully and measures the speed.
- The referee conducting the speed test pushes the controlled backwards fully and measures the speed.
- Display on the machine must not exceed **10kmph** otherwise the test has failed, being an average taken from the two wheels that are read.

RECORDING

- The referee conducting the speed test will record the score once a successful speed test has been completed. The referee will also mark on the sheet/electronic media the number that the player plays at.
- After a successful speed test the player who has passed the test will be guided towards a point on court away from the players waiting to test.

SPEED ADJUSTMENTS

- Powerchairs that have failed the pre-match speed test must be adjusted prior to retaking the test.
- Each player is entitled to 2 pre-match speed tests after the initial fail.
- If the player passes after the first retest they are deemed as ‘match ready’ and will not require a third test.
- If both retests are failed then the player will be ruled out of the first half of the game, with a further retest being issued at Half-Time. If this test is also failed then the player will miss the whole game.
- After a Powerchair has completed the test it is forbidden for the program to be adjusted in any way.
- During the game the actual Program Controller must either be placed on the Score table and left for the duration of the game or given to a member of the crowd who is not part of the team / technical delegation.

PROTOCOL – Post-Match (or Match Official requested)

- Protocol is the same as the protocol for pre-match testing except for the allowable speed.
- Post-match the Kmph must not exceed **11Kmph** being an average taken from the two wheels that are read.

- If a spare chair is to be tested Post-match, it needs to be tested with the same user as was in it for the Pre-match test.
- If a player fails the initial post match test speed they will be allowed a further 15 minutes cool down period and will be retested after this period
- If the chair fails the test after the further 15 minutes they will be allowed 1 hour in order for the chair to return to a suitable state.
- At this stage the chair must not exceed the original speed of **10Kmph**
- Failure after the 1 hour time limit will result in the player and club facing further sanctions as stated in the speed test protocol.

APPENDIX (C)

WFA League Protest Procedure

Ineligible Player Protests

- A. A protest concerning an ineligible player:
 - (1) may be made at any time, and
 - (2) does not require the payment of the £25.00 protest fee.
- B. If it is determined that there has been an ineligible player, the game shall be declared a forfeit.
- C. The forfeit penalty applies not only to the game that originated the protest, but also to all games that have involved the ineligible player during the tournament.
- D. If it is determined that there has been an ineligible player, the WFA may elect to fine the Team. This fine should be no more than £50.00 for the first offence.

Protests

1. There can be no protests or challenges relating to in-game interpretations/ applications of the Laws of the Game. *Only breaches of competition rules may be challenged.*

2. **A protest concerning a particular game and any incidents which occurred during that game may be lodged** by the Head Coach, or his (or her) assistant when the head coach is not present, **ONLY if it is alleged that a REGULATION was incorrectly applied or enforced by the referee.**

Protest Procedure:

- A. An informal verbal protest may be made to the referees by the Head Coach, or his (or her) assistant when the head coach is not present, at (preferably) or close to, the time of the incident; but, in all cases, it must be made **before** the referees have left the playing field.
- B. A simple or vague complaint about a call or calls will not suffice - the word "protest" must be used, and the reason for the protest must be made clear. (If this is done **at the time of the incident**, a mistake by a referee can often be easily rectified without the need for any further action.)
- C. The opposing coach should be notified of the protest by the referee immediately after the final whistle.
- D. The informal verbal protest must be followed by submission of a formal, written protest:
 - (1) Made by the Team representative to **WFA League Management Committee**,
 - (2) Within 1 hour of the completion of the game,
 - (3) accompanied by a fee of £25.00, which will be refunded if the protest is allowed, and retained if the protest is disallowed.
- E. The decision must be made within 24 hours of reception and the decision submitted in writing to both coaches.
- F. All decisions of the WFA League Management Committee are subject to appeal to The FA in accordance with the Regulations for Football Association Appeals.

APPENDIX (D)

Chair Specification

The WFA have identified 3 “categories” of Powerchairs for use in competitions in England:

1. Medical wheelchairs (usually used by grassroots players at beginner level, but can be used by players with more complex needs at all levels).
2. Medical wheelchairs modified to play Powerchair Football.
3. Custom built sports chairs for the sole purpose of playing Powerchair football.

All three categories of chair have been passed for use in the National League. Regional leagues will decide on an individual basis which chairs are to be used based on the level of competition.

Chair Dimensions and the ‘The Box’

- The overall dimensions of the chair base (including attachment, seating and any side protection) shall not exceed 1400mm in length and 825mm in width. This will include any anti-tip wheels. No part of the chair, seat or player should exceed the dimensions set above. This includes any essential equipment the player needs in order to participate, e.g. oxygen cylinders, voice equipment and additional restraints. The WFA has the right to review any special cases and agree exceptions to ensure players’ safety or specific needs.

Overhang

- No part of the chair, seat, headrest or player should overhang the front and rear of the chair base. This is to avoid injury to the players from a player reversing into another player. This excludes the back wheels on a mid wheel drive chair and anti tip wheels that may stick out beyond the back of the chair. If a player was to reverse into another player or the wall, the base of the chair should be the first thing to make contact and not a players backrest or headrest. See diagrams 1 and 2.

Playing Attachments

- The player should be using a bumper or guard that has passed the WFA testing process and as supplied by the manufacturer. It should also be securely attached to the chair.
 - All playing attachments currently tested and sanctioned for use can be found on the WFA website: - www.thewfa.org.uk/playing-attachments
- The front bumper/guard on all chairs should have a clear definition of where it starts and ends. Where the bumper and side guard are continuous the front bumper length is to be set at 330mm (13 inches) when measured from the front of the chair (see diagram 3).
- All “Custom built sports chairs” must clearly define between the front bumper and side of the chair. For example the bumper painted a contrasting colour to the side guards. We advised against using brightly coloured tape as this can nullify the noise of contact between chairs.

Please note a simple strip of tape or paint at this distance is not considered a clear definition. This is to mainly aid referees, as bumper to bumper contact is different to a player making contact with the side of chair when determining fouls.

The Rest of the Chair

- Side guards are compulsory for all players playing in WFA sanctioned competitions to ensure the ball doesn't get trapped. These should be positioned between the front and back wheels.
- Ensure that nothing on the chair protrudes so that it can cause injury. An example of this maybe a headrest bar that extends out, which could cause injury when reversing. Any excess bars need to be removed, as well as ensuring there are no sharp edges or fragments if cutting has took place.
- A seatbelt must be worn by all players when playing in WFA sanctioned competitions. A harness can also be worn in addition to a lap belt.
- No part of a chair should be able to trap or hold the ball, ride over the ball or become wedged near the front wheels.
- Ensure that nothing on the chairs can become entangled with another chair when playing, i.e. seatbelts, wires, cables.
- All tyres must be non-marking to avoid damaging the playing surface. No solutions or sprays are permitted to be added to the tyres, which may result in leaving residue on the surface. If a referee or the WFA League Management Panel believes that tyres are damaging or marking the floor, the wheelchair will be prohibited for use in a game until they are changed and tested.
- Clubs and players are reminded that any modifications to the electrics must be carried out correctly and safely and are done at your own risk. We shall not be imposing a ban on this as we currently have limited methods of regulation. The technical committee shall monitor, gather data and information on modifications before we can regulate and impose future rules.
- General guidance notes: Is the player controlling their chair ok? Referees have the right to turn the speed down on a players chair if they are deemed not to be safe and in control. Do they look comfortable and secure in the chair? Does the player have a headrest?

Diagram 1: Rear wheel drive chair (Storm, Strike Force etc)

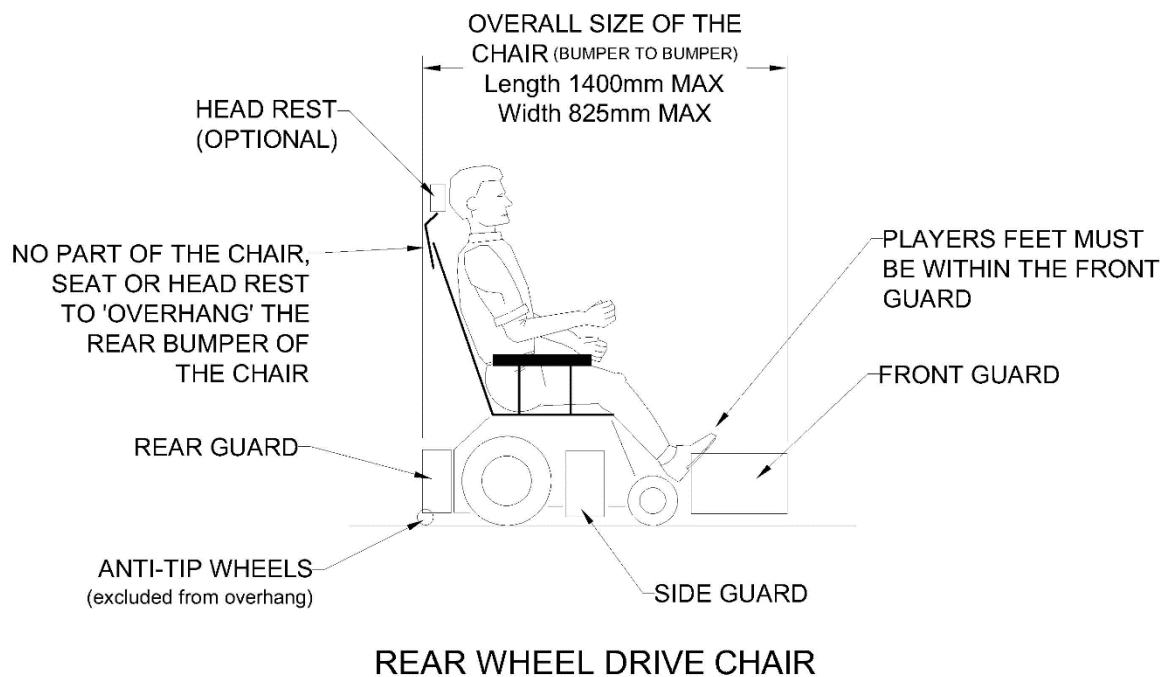


Diagram 2: Mid wheel drive chair (TDX etc)

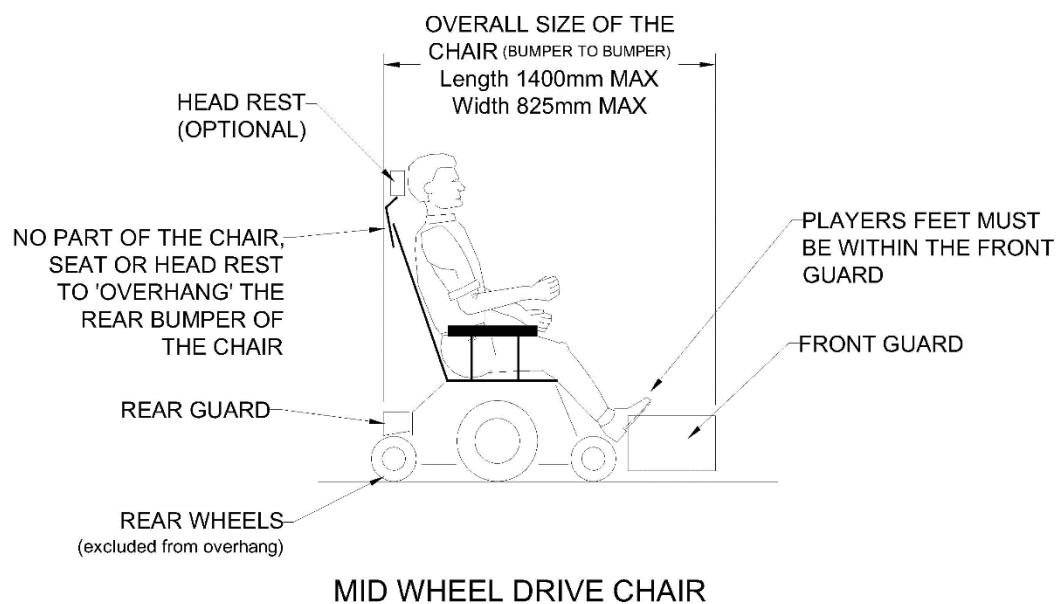
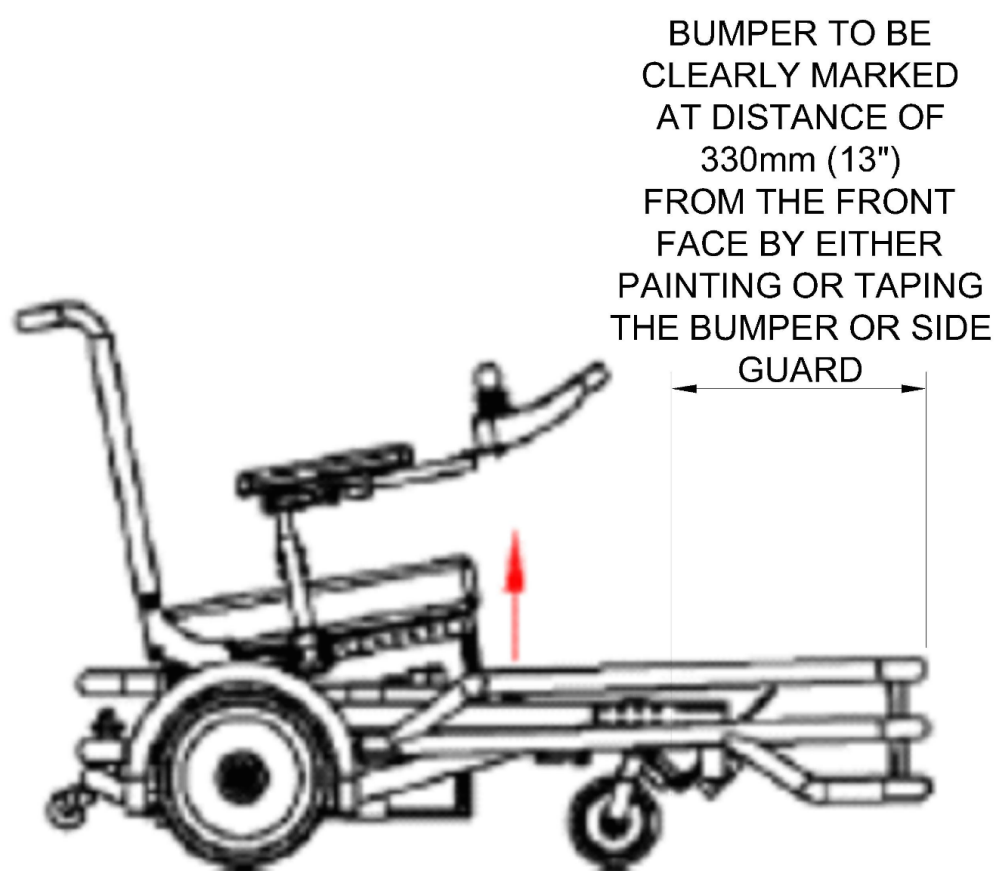


Diagram 3: Bumper markings on Strike Force chair



Specification	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Notes
The overall dimensions of the chair (including attachment, seating and any side protection), shall not exceed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1400mm in length • 825mm in width 				
No part of the chair or player should overhang the rear guard of the chair. If chair is reversed, the base of the chair (excluding rear wheels and rear castors), should make contact first instead of the chairs backrest or headrest.				<i>To avoid injury in the event a player reverses and collides with an opponent or official.</i>
Side guards must be fitted to ensure the ball cannot get trapped. <i>These should be positioned between the front and back wheels.</i>				
Ensure that nothing on the chair protrudes out so that it can cause injury. An example of this maybe a headrest bar that extends out, which could cause injury when reversing.				
The chair must be fitted with a WFA sanctioned playing attachment.				This should be securely attached to the chair and be visually inspected.
A lap belt must be fitted and worn. A harness or other restraining belts are also permitted in addition to lap belt.				Should be worn when undergoing speed test and warming up
No part of the chair should be able to trap, carry or wedge the football.				
Ensure that nothing on the chairs can become entangled with another chair when playing, i.e. seatbelts, wires, cables.				
*The bumper / guard on all approved chairs should have a clear definition of where it starts and ends. On a strike force chair the bumper is defined as 13 inches and should be clearly marked in a distinctive colour.				
General notes: Is the player controlling their chair ok? Do they look comfortable and secure in the chair? Does the player have a headrest?				

Appendix (E) Guidance for supplying referee feedback.

All WFA clubs are required to adhere to the Football Association marking scheme with marks from 1-100, which was introduced in 2006.

The mark awarded by a club must be based on the referee's overall performance, It is most important that the mark is awarded fairly and not based upon isolated incidents or previous games. The Referee's performance should be determined by the table below which should act as a guide for the overall mark which should fall within the mark range for each standard of performance.

A mark of 91-100 would be regarded as 'excellent'. A mark between 71 and 80 would represent the standard expected.

Mark Range	Comment
100-86	The Referee demonstrated very accurate decision-making and controlled the game very well using management and communication skills effectively to add value to the game.
85-76	The Referee demonstrated accurate decision-making and controlled the game well using management and communication skills to contribute positively to the game.
75-61	The Referee demonstrated reasonably accurate decision-making and despite some shortcomings generally controlled the game well.
60-41	The Referee demonstrated shortcomings in the accuracy of decision-making and control which affected the game.
40 and below	The Referee demonstrated a inability decision-making and was unable to control the game. Any score in this range will require a report to be written by the team

Notes

- Club officials should use the full range of marks within each category to help distinguish between different performance levels, e.g. within the 85-76 category a mark of 84 indicates a better performance than a mark of 77.
- While some Referees may have below average performances, there will usually have been some positive aspects of their performance, so extremely low marks should be very rare.
- When club officials are marking a Referee, they should always look on the game as a whole and not isolated decisions. The result of the match should not influence the mark and disciplinary action should be judged objectively.
- When a mark of 40 or less is awarded, a report must be provided to the Referee coordinator. The purpose of this is to assist Referees to improve their performance levels, so the comments should be as helpful as positive.

How to decide on the Referee's Mark

The following questions focus on the key areas of a referee's performance. They are intended as a "guide", are not necessarily comprehensive and need not be answered individually. It is, however, worth considering them before committing yourself to a mark for the referee.

CONTROL AND DECISION MAKING

- How well did the Referee control the game?
- Were the players' actions recognized correctly?
- Were the Laws applied correctly?
- Were all incidents dealt with efficiently/effectively?
- Were all the appropriate sanctions applied correctly?
- Was the Referee always within reasonable distance of incidents?
- Was the Referee well positioned to make critical decisions, especially in and around the penalty area?
- Did the Referee understand the players' positional intentions and keep out of the way accordingly?
- Did the Referee demonstrate alertness and concentration throughout the game?
- Did the Referee apply the use of the advantage to suit the mood and temperature of the game?
- Was the Referee aware of the players' attitude to advantage?
- Did the Referee use the assistants effectively?
- Did the officials work as a team, and did the Referee lead and manage them to the benefit of the game?

COMMUNICATION AND PLAYER MANAGEMENT

- How well did the Referee communicate with the players during the game?
- Did the Referee's level of involvement/profile suit this particular game?
- Did the Referee respond to the changing pattern of play/mood of players?
- Did the Referee demonstrate empathy for the game, allowing it to develop in accordance with the tempo of the game?
- Was the Referee pro-active in controlling of the game?
- Was the Referee's authority asserted firmly without being officious?
- Was the Referee confident and quick thinking?
- Did the Referee appear unflustered and unhurried when making critical decisions?
- Did the Referee permit undue questioning of decisions?
- Did the Referee deal effectively with players crowding around after decisions/incidents?
- Was effective player management in evidence?
- Was the Referee's body language confident and open at all times?
- Did the pace of the game, the crowd or player pressure affect the Referee negatively?

Final Thoughts

- Always try to be objective when marking. You may not obtain the most objective view by marking immediately after the game.
- Judge the performance over the whole game. Don't be too influenced by one particular incident.
- Don't mark the Referee down unfairly because your team was unlucky and lost the game or some disciplinary action was taken against your players.

SCHEDULE A

FINES TARIFF	
<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>MAXIMUM FEE</i>
FAILURE TO REGISTER MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£200 per weekend
FAILURE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANT REFEREE	£50-200
GOALKEEPER FAILING TO WEAR APPROPRIATE SHIRT	£50 per weekend
FIELDING AN ILLELIGIBLE PLAYER	£25
KNOWINGLY MISREPRESENTATION OF PF2 PLAYER AS PF1	£100
FAILURE OF REQUESTED OR RANDOM SPEED TEST	£50
ILLEGAL APPROACH OF PLAYER	£25
FORFEITED GAME	£40 PER GAME