Wheelchair Basketball in Scotland

This fact sheet provides an overview of wheelchair basketball for disabled people in Scotland. It also provides useful contact details to signpost you to your local club to develop your skills and start to play or coach wheelchair basketball.

**Participation**

Wheelchair basketball is a fun and exciting sport which can be played by all people of any age, gender or ability. The inclusive nature of the sport enables players of mixed abilities to play on the same team. British Wheelchair Basketball (BWB) has clubs based across the UK playing in 9 divisions. The sport is rapidly developing across Scotland with clubs providing opportunities for players to train and play recreationally, right through to more competitive national league opportunities.

The game was first played in the USA, when basketball players injured during World War II adapted the running game for wheelchair users to continue their enjoyment and participate in team sport. Although initially a rehabilitation and recreational activity for spinal cord injured patients, it quickly developed into a competitive sport played across the world.

Junior Opportunities - Inclusive Zone Basketball

Inclusive Zone Basketball (IZB), is a 4 a-side game, developed to enable both running and wheelchair basketball players to play the game together, matched in their abilities within zones. IZB is played across the UK and is British Wheelchair Basketball’s main schools competition.

The small-sided teams and adapted playing area enable girls and boys, both disabled and non-disabled players, to participate in a fun game of basketball together. The game takes into account principles of the ‘Social Model’ of disability, and lends itself to the modified and parallel sections of the ‘Sports Inclusion Model’.


Scotland has National League clubs (St Mirren Warriors and Lothian Phoenix), and Scottish League Clubs (Grampian Flyers, Dundee Dragons, Stirling University Central, Women Warriors, and basketball paisley Inclusive Club).

A history of wheelchair basketball has been documented in the book ‘Wheelchairs Can Jump!’ by Stan Labanowich & Armand ‘Tip’ Thiboutot.
Colleges and Universities

There is growing interest for wheelchair basketball within Colleges and Universities, with many holding come & try sessions and annual Varsity competitions.

Scottish Student Sport (SSS) support the annual Scottish Student Wheelchair Basketball tournament, which feeds into BWB’s Universities Championships at the University of Worcester Arena.

Classification

Wheelchair Basketball embraces a wide range of disabilities including paraplegics, spina bifida, amputees, brittle bones, cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis. Virtually everyone who can conceivably play wheelchair basketball is encouraged to do so.

To be able to play competitive wheelchair basketball at international level, players must have a disability or impairment that affects their lower limbs. To ensure a fair and level playing field, the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF), classify players according to their functional ability in the playing chair. Internationally there are 5 main classes: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 4.5. Players in classes 1 – 4 can also be assigned a .5 classification eg. 1.5.

British Wheelchair Basketball (BWB), also permit players who do not qualify for IWBF classification to play in BWB domestic leagues and competitions as 5.0, this also includes able-bodied players.
Coach Education

British Wheelchair Basketball’s coaching courses are available from Leader Award, through Grade 1 (Coaching Assistant), Grade 2 (Coach) and Grade 3 (Advanced Coach).

The structure promotes a holistic player centred approach, where the Coach is concerned with the development of players’ technical, tactical, physical, mental and personal skills appropriate to the needs, ability, and well-being of the player.

This approach helps form the foundation for lifelong participation in sport, through the Long Term Athlete Development model, and is achieved through fun and enjoyable games and activities.

Helpful Resources

There are a number of courses available for those wishing to become involved in coaching Wheelchair Basketball:

- Leaders Award
- Introduction in Officiating Award
- Grade 1 Coaching Assistant Award
- Grade 2 Coach Award

For more information about coaching courses, contact basketballscotland’s Wheelchair Basketball Development Officer, Tina Gordon: tina.gordon@basketball-scotland.com

UK Disability Inclusion Training (Basketball)

The UK Disability Inclusion Training (Basketball) course, developed in partnership between basketballscotland and Scottish Disability Sport, is based on the Sports Inclusion Model (SIM). It provides information and useful practical ideas to support coaches working with players with physical and learning impairments.
SportsCoach UK Course - How to Coach Disabled People in Sport

This workshop aims to answer all the commonly asked questions about disabled participants in sport and how to set up coaching sessions to suit their needs. It gives advice on how to plan a session or make minor adjustments to the way you work, to make your coaching more effective.

Performance

Recent World and European senior GB Men’s and Women’s achievements:

- 2015 European Championships: GB Men – Gold  GB Women – Bronze
- 2014 World Championships: GB Men – 7th  GB Women – 5th

Leading Recent Performers

Scotland can boast several players who have represented GB at the Paralympic Games, including Susan McMahon – Stevenson, Fiona Christie, Laura Bleakley, Sarah Baillie, Gary Davidson, Gordon Perry, Bobby Park, John Smith, John Clarke, and Calum Gordon, and Robyn Love.

Aspiring junior players on the Scotland and GB pathways include Steven Ross, Morwenna Hastings, David Ion, David Beattie and Josh Manson.

Competitions

There are a wide range of opportunities for people to participate in wheelchair basketball in Scotland from junior recreational level to senior elite performance, including the following playing opportunities:

- Inclusive Zone Basketball (a combination of running and wheelchair basketball for school based competition)
- Scottish Development League (for Scottish League Clubs)
- Scottish Universities & Colleges Championships
- BWB National Leagues divisions 1 to 4
- BWB Junior League U15 & U19
- BWB Women’s League divisions 1 to 3

*British Wheelchair Basketball National Junior Championships U15 & U19
*British Wheelchair Basketball Celtic Cup (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland U23)
*IWBF U23 Men’s European & World Championships
*IWBF U25 Women’s European & World Championships
*IWBF Men’s & Women’s European, World & Paralympic Championships

*Note that participation in these competitions involve British Wheelchair Basketball selection process
Key Contacts

Tina Gordon, basketballscotland
Wheelchair Basketball Development Officer
basketballscotland
Caledonia House, Edinburgh EH12 9DQ
Tel: 0131 317 726 / 07734 845 950
E: tina.gordon@basketball-scotland.com
W: www.basketballscotland.co.uk

British Wheelchair Basketball
SportPark, 3 Oakwood Drive, Loughborough
Leicester LE11 3QF
Tel: 01509 279900
W: www.gbwba.org.uk

Club Contacts

Lothian Phoenix
Club contact: Terry Gillan
E: terrygillan@gmail.com
W: www.lothianphoenix.org.uk
Training: Tuesday & Thursday 7pm – 9pm
(seniors), Thursday 7pm – 9pm (juniors)
Armadale Academy, West Main St., Armadale, EH48 3LY
Twitter: @LothianPhoenix

West of Scotland Warriors
Club contact: Peter Moore
E: pistolpetemoore@msn.com
W: www.westofscotlandwheelchairsportsclub.btc.k.co.uk
Training: Tuesday & Thursday 8pm – 10pm
St Ninian’s High School, Rouken Glen Rd, Giffnock, Glasgow, G46 6UG
Twitter: @stmwarriors
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SmirrenWarriors/

Grampian Flyers
Club contact: Grant Wilson
E: grantus70@gmail.com
W: www.flyersbasketball.co.uk
Training: Monday 7pm – 8pm
The Beach Leisure Centre, Aberdeen, AB24 5NR

Dundee Dragons
Club contact: Jen Scally
E: Jen.scally@dundeedragons.net
Training: Saturday 10am – 1pm
Lynch Sports Centre, South Rd, Dundee, DD2 4SR

Women Warriors
Club contact: Anne-Marie Monaghan
E: annemarie@empowerqualitysupportcounts.co.uk
Training: Monday 7pm-9pm
Laurel Park Sports Club, 425 Anniesland Rd, Glasgow, G13 1YQ

Stirling Uni Central
Club contact: Mitchell Graham
E: Mitchell.graham@fvds.org.uk
Training: Monday 6pm-7pm
Gannochy Sports Centre, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA

Basketball paisley Inclusive Club
Club contact: Jason Davies
E: j.davies021@icloud.com
W: www.basketballpaisley.com
Training: Wednesday 5pm – 6.30pm
The Lagoon Sports Centre, 11 Christie St, Paisley, PA1 1NB
Twitter: @basketballpaisley

Fast and dynamic, wheelchair basketball is a great team sport that caters for all levels of ability and disability
Scottish Development, Talent & Performance
Player Pathway

Competitions

IPC Paralympic Games
IWBF World Championships
IWBF European Championships
Commonwealth Games 2022

IWBF U25 GB Women’s
European/World Championships
IWBF U22/U23 GB Men
European/World Championships

BWB U23 Celtic Cup
BWB U19 National Junior Championships and School Games
BWB U15 National Junior Championships

SDS U19 Regional Junior Championships
SDS U13 Regional Junior Championships
Inclusive Zone Basketball Schools Competition

U22/U23 GB Men
U25 GB Women
U23 Scotland (Mixed)
U19 Scotland (Mixed)
U15 Scotland (Mixed)
U13 & U19 Scotland Regional Squads
(Highlands, Grampian, Tayside & Fife, Central, East, West)
Scottish Regional & National ‘IZB’
BWB ‘IZB’ Championships