

Basketball for Disabled People 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 disabled people in wheelchair basketball.



The Development of Wheelchair Basketball

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. In Scotland there are clubs which provide opportunities for players to train and play recreationally right through to more competitive opportunities within the two national league clubs based in West Lothian and East Renfrewshire.



In 2015 wheelchair basketball celebrates its 70th anniversary. The game was first played in the USA, when basketball players injured during World War II adapted the running game to four wheels in order 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. In 1955 the touring US Pan Am Jets team first brought wheelchair basketball to England when they took part in

the first international competition at Stoke Mandeville. Up to that time wheelchair netball had been played in England.

The 1960's saw the sport dominated by two teams, the USA and latterly Israel who won both men's and women's gold medals at the 1968 Paralympic Games in Tel Aviv. In the early 1970's the European stage was dominated by Great Britain and in 1975 the first World Championships for Men, the Gold Cup, took place in Bruges, Belgium. Israel defeated the USA in the final 50 - 47, with Great Britain taking the bronze medal. Throughout the 1980's, France emerged as a most potent wheelchair basketball force. They won the Men's Paralympic title in 1984 and were Men's European Champions from 1982 to the end of the decade.

In 1993 the GB men's team took the Silver medal at the European Championships, losing 57 - 52 to The Netherlands. In 1995, the GB team won its first International competition since the 1970's when they defeated Spain 61 - 59 in the Final of the European Championships. This was followed, in August 1996, by the GB team taking its first ever Paralympic Medal at the Championships in Atlanta, defeated by Australia 63- 78 achieving the Silver Medal.

Madrid hosted the 1997 the European Championships, where the GB Men's team won the Silver Medal, losing to France 44 - 46 in the final. The GB Women's team won the Bronze Medal in the women's event, won by the Netherlands. The two Silver Medals won by the GB Men's team were instrumental in them obtaining National Lottery funding, through UK Sport's World Class Performance Programme in 1998. This allowed the Association to employ a full time Performance Director and professional coaching staff for the team and squad members received individual grants to allow them to become full time athletes.

Inclusive Zone Basketball

Inclusive Zone Basketball (IZB) is a 4 a-side game, developed to enable players who cannot participate in a full game of basketball to enjoy playing the game. The zones used, enable both running and wheelchair basketball players to be matched in their abilities within these 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, to participate in a fun game of basketball. The game takes into account principles of the 'Social Model' of disability, and lends itself to the modified and parallel sections of the 'Inclusion Spectrum'.

** Suitable for electric wheelchair players, manual wheelchair players and ambulant with physical impairments. Players with learning disabilities may require additional support from Leaders in recognising and playing within the designated zones.*

Inclusive Zone Basketball is a great way for schools to get young people with physical impairments involved in team sports. As the sport grows, the goal is to have local and regional IZB festivals, culminating in a

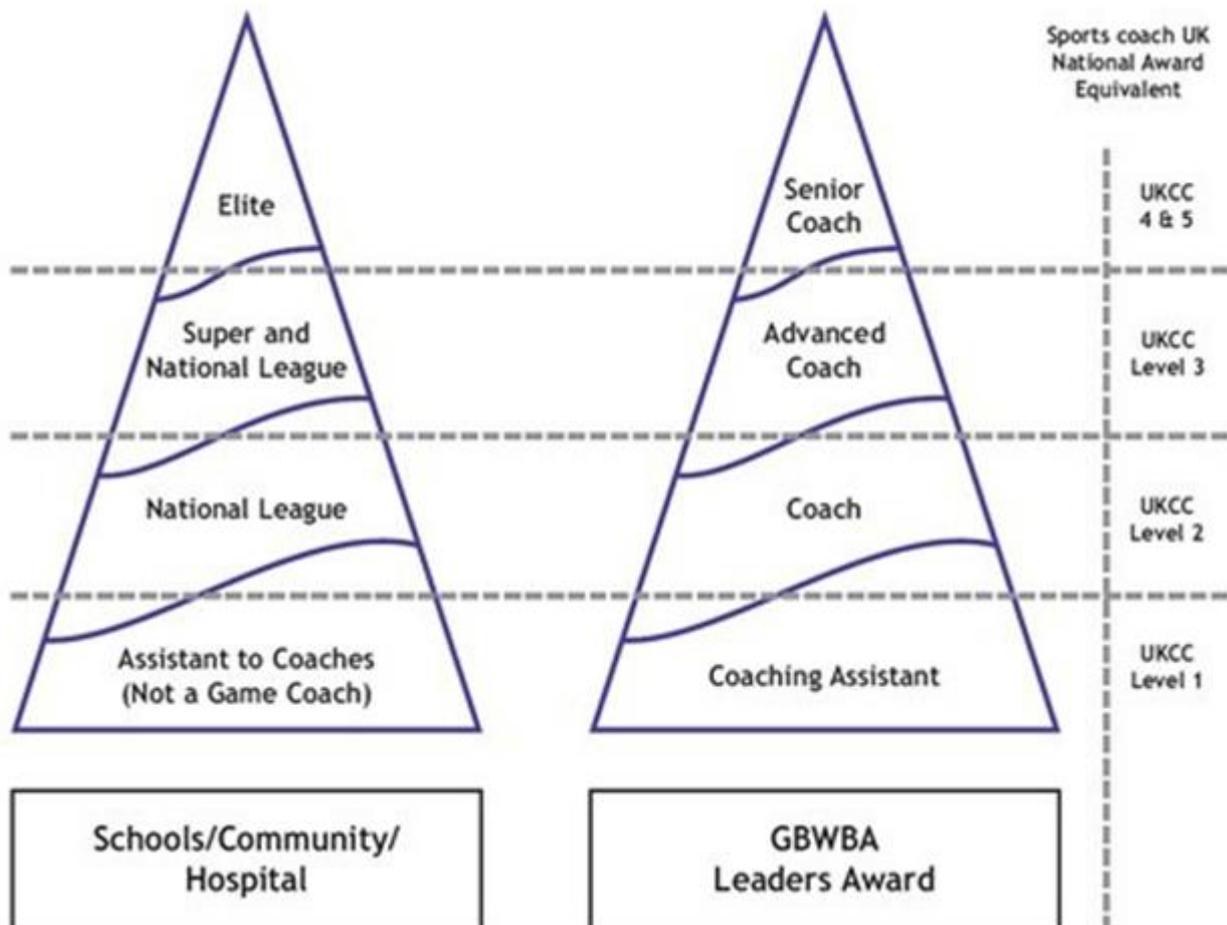
Scottish National IZB Finals – with the winners being invited to the British Wheelchair Basketball IZB Festival in March each year.

The Classifications

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 wheelchair basketball, players must have 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

The BWB award structure prepares coaches for their pathway within the Long Term Coach Development model, and provides the foundations for their Continual Professional Development (CPD). Courses are available from Leader Award through Grade 1 (assistant coach), Grade 2 (Coach) and Grade 3 (Advanced Coach).

The structure also 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 Player 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 Award
- Grade 2 Coaching Award

For more information about either taking part in or holding a course, please contact BWB workforce Development Officer Samantha Lue on:

s.lue@britishwheelchairbasketball.co.uk

01509 279900

UK Disability Inclusion Training (Basketball)

The UK Disability Inclusion Training

(Basketball) course which was developed through a key partnership between **basketballscotland** and Scottish Disability Sport is now available.

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.

Facts & Figures

British Wheelchair Basketball consists of 65 teams playing in 9 Divisions. Scotland has 2 National League clubs (West of Scotland Warriors and Lothian Phoenix) and 2 Associate Member Clubs (Grampian Flyers and Dundee Dragons).

Recent World and European GB achievements:

- 2011 European Championships: GB Men – Gold GB Women – Bronze
- 2012 Paralympic Games (England): GB Men – 4th place GB Women – 7th place
- 2013 European Championships: GB Men – Gold GB Women – Bronze
- The Women's World Championships are being held 23rd-29th June and the Men's 5th – 15th July

Leading Performers

Scotland has leading performers including Sarah Baillie (GB Paralympian 1996-2002) and Calum Gordon (GB Paralympian 1988-1996, achieving a silver medal in Atlanta in 1996).

Aspiring GB international, Steven Ross, has represented both Scotland and GB at U23 age groups and is now on a senior GB Performance Pathway.

Competitions

There is 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 Local League Clubs).

- British Wheelchair Basketball National Leagues Division 1 to 4 (for Scottish National League Clubs)
- British Wheelchair Basketball Junior League U15 & U19
- British Wheelchair Basketball Women's League Division 1 & 2
- *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

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British Wheelchair Basketball

SportPark, 3 Oakwood Drive, Loughborough Leicester LE11 3QF
01509 279900

www.gbwb.org.uk

Key Websites

Lothian Phoenix

Club contact: Terry Gillan- terrygillan@gmail.com

www.lothianphoenix.org.uk

Training: Tuesday & Thursday 7pm – 9pm (seniors), 7pm – 8pm (juniors)
Armadale Academy, West Main St., Armadale, EH48 3LY

West of Scotland Warriors

Club contact: Ryan Alexander - ryjain25@hotmail.com

www.westofscotlandwheelchairsportsclub.btck.co.uk

Training: Tuesday & Thursday 8pm – 10pm
Eastwood Park, Rouken Glen Rd, Giffnock, Glasgow, East
Renfrewshire, G46 6UG

Grampian Flyers

Club contact: Grant Wilson - grantus70@gmail.com

www.flyersbasketball.co.uk

Training: Monday 7pm – 8pm
The Beach Leisure Centre, Aberdeen, AB24 5NR

Dundee Dragons

Club contact: Sally Lumsdaine - sl010c5317@blueyonder.co.uk

www.dundeedragons.net

Training: Saturday 10am – 12pm
Lynch Sports Centre, South Rd, Dundee, DD2 4SR

