

ONPARA

Club Registration Policy



ONTARIO
PARA
NETWORK

Updated July 2024

Purpose: The Ontario Para Network (ONPARA) aims to facilitate the growth and development of ONPARA clubs across the province. This policy outlines the requirements and procedures for ONPARA clubs to register for the season ensuring compliance with standards for coaching and operational excellence.

Club Registration Requirements:

1. **Club Information:** Clubs must provide accurate and up-to-date information including club name, contact details, and primary location of operation.
2. **Club Constitution:** Clubs must have a constitution or bylaws that outline the club's governance structure, membership criteria, and operational procedures.
3. **Club Representatives:** Each club must designate at least one primary contact person responsible for communication with ONPARA and representing the club's interests.
4. **Membership Fee:** Clubs are required to pay the annual membership fee as determined by ONPARA to maintain active status.
5. **Player Registration:** Clubs must ensure that **all players** participating in club activities are registered members of both the club and the ONPARA.
6. **Facilities:** Clubs must have access to suitable facilities for wheelchair basketball practices and games, compliant with safety and accessibility standards.
7. **Equipment:** Clubs must possess adequate equipment
8. **Compliance:** Clubs must adhere to all policies, rules, and regulations set forth by The National and International bodies.
9. **Location:** Clubs must be located in Ontario

Minimum Coaching Requirements:

1. **Certification/ Requirements:** Head coaches must hold a valid coaching certification recognized by ONPARA, or another accredited coaching body including the following.
 1. NCCP – Into to Competition
 2. Rowans Law
 3. Safe Sport
 4. NCCP – Coaching an athlete with a disability
2. **Experience:** Coaches should have experience working with athletes with disabilities, preferably in wheelchair basketball or a related adaptive sports discipline.
3. **First Aid/CPR:** Coaches must hold current certifications in First Aid and CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation).
4. **Vulnerable Sector Check:** Coaches must undergo a criminal background check to ensure the safety and well-being of club members.

5. **Professionalism:** Coaches are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner, demonstrating respect, integrity, and commitment to the development of their athletes and the sport.
6. **Continuing Education:** Coaches are encouraged to participate in ongoing professional development activities to enhance their coaching knowledge and skills.

Policy Compliance: Failure to meet the club registration requirements or minimum coaching standards may result in the club's suspension or revocation of membership with ONPARA. Clubs and coaches are responsible for maintaining compliance with this policy and any updates or amendments made by ONPARA.

Approval and Review: This policy is subject to review and approval by ONPARA Board of Directors. It will be periodically reviewed to ensure relevance and effectiveness in achieving the objectives of OPN and supporting the development of wheelchair basketball clubs in Ontario.

ONPARA 2024-2025 Membership Fees

Member Type	Cost
Jr Athlete (18 and under)	\$35.00
Sr Athlete (19 and over)	\$50.00
Referee	\$50.00
Coach	\$50.00
Club	\$125.00
Board Member	0
Volunteer	0
Staff	0

NOTES

- Current Clubs Grandfathered with the intention of hiring a coach with min standards.
- New Clubs have 12 months to acquire minimum standards.

BENEFITS

Welcome to the ONPARA Network, where athletes with varying abilities come together to excel, connect, and achieve greatness! As a member of the ONPARA Network, you'll enjoy a wide range of exclusive benefits tailored to support your athletic journey and personal development.

Insurance

In addition to Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Rugby, ONPARA provides insurance coverage for the club. This comprehensive insurance includes managing certificate processing and addressing any special requests that may arise.

Access to Funding and Scholarships

- ONPARA provides information on government funding programs that athletes can apply for, including grants from Sport Canada and provincial sport funding bodies. These programs often support high-performance athletes and grassroots initiatives.
- ONPARA facilitates connections with corporate sponsors who are interested in supporting adaptive sports. These sponsorships can range from financial contributions to in-kind donations of equipment or services.
- ONPARA assists athletes in accessing grants and scholarships offered by local community foundations. These foundations may have specific funds allocated for sports and recreation activities.
- ONPARA offers guidance and support to athletes and clubs throughout the application process. This includes helping athletes and clubs understand eligibility criteria, preparing application materials, and ensuring applications are submitted on time.
- ONPARA fosters networking opportunities where athletes can connect with funding providers, sponsors, and fellow athletes. These connections can lead to additional funding opportunities and partnerships.

Club Governance and Administrative Support

ONPARA offers comprehensive support to its affiliated clubs across various critical administrative areas, ensuring smooth operations and compliance with best practices.

- **Review and Revision of Club By-Laws:** ONPARA assists clubs in reviewing and revising their by-laws to ensure they align with current regulations and best practices in sports governance. This service helps clubs maintain clarity and consistency in their organizational structure and operations.
- **Advice on Policies and Procedures:** ONPARA provides guidance on developing and refining policies and procedures that govern club activities. This includes policies related

to membership, athlete conduct, competition protocols, and more, helping clubs establish a clear framework for operations.

- **Assistance with Governance** ONPARA supports clubs in enhancing their governance structure. ONPARA works to ensure that clubs can attract qualified individuals who are committed to advancing the organization's mission and supporting its members.
- **Assistance with Safe Sport Issues:** ONPARA addresses safe sport issues by offering expertise and resources to help clubs create and implement safe sport policies. This includes guidelines on preventing and responding to misconduct, promoting athlete welfare, and fostering a safe and respectful environment for all participants.
- **Use of ONPARA's Legal Services:** In cases where legal expertise is required, ONPARA offers access to legal services tailored to the needs of its affiliated clubs. This includes assistance with legal compliance, contractual matters, and resolving disputes, ensuring that clubs operate within the boundaries of the law and safeguard their interests.

Athlete Recruitment

ONPARA actively supports recruitment efforts through a variety of initiatives aimed at fostering awareness, participation, and engagement in wheelchair sports.

- **Try It Days:** ONPARA organizes "Try It Days" to introduce individuals to wheelchair sports in a fun and accessible environment. These events allow participants to experience different sports firsthand, providing them with an opportunity to learn basic skills, interact with experienced athletes, and discover their potential interest in wheelchair sports.
- **Community Partnerships and Special Events:** ONPARA collaborates with community organizations and hosts special events aimed at promoting wheelchair sports. By partnering with local groups, schools, and businesses, ONPARA expands its outreach efforts and engages diverse communities. These partnerships facilitate the hosting of inclusive sports demonstrations, workshops, and recreational activities that encourage participation and inclusion.
- **Partnership with Municipalities for New Programs:** ONPARA works closely with municipalities to establish and promote new wheelchair sports programs. These partnerships involve identifying suitable venues, securing funding support, and developing program schedules that cater to the needs and interests of local residents. By leveraging municipal resources and support, ONPARA enhances accessibility and expands opportunities for wheelchair sports participation across different communities.
- **Bridging the Gap Program at Rehabilitation Centers:** ONPARA's "Bridging the Gap" program is designed to introduce individuals undergoing rehabilitation to wheelchair sports as a means of physical activity and recreation. This program collaborates with rehabilitation centers and healthcare professionals to facilitate structured sports sessions, providing participants with the opportunity to engage in physical activities that promote recovery, rehabilitation, and overall well-being.
- Through these recruitment initiatives, ONPARA not only increases awareness and participation in wheelchair sports but also fosters a supportive and inclusive community

where individuals of all abilities can discover the benefits and joy of participating in sports. These efforts contribute to promoting a healthier lifestyle, building confidence, and fostering a sense of belonging among participants across Ontario.

Competitive Opportunities – Provincial Teams

Members of the ONPARA Network have unique opportunities to participate in a wide array of competitive events, spanning local, national, and international levels. These events are meticulously organized to cater specifically to athletes involved with ONPARA.

- **Local Competitions:** ONPARA facilitates local tournaments and leagues that provide athletes with valuable competitive experiences within their communities. These events serve as foundational platforms for athletes to hone their skills, build camaraderie with peers, and showcase their abilities in a supportive environment.
- **National Competitions:** Athletes within the ONPARA Network have the chance to compete at national-level competitions sanctioned by relevant sport governing bodies. These events attract top talent from across Canada, offering athletes the opportunity to measure themselves against the best in the country while representing their province and club.
- **Provincial Teams for Juniors, Women, and Men:** ONPARA organizes and supports provincial teams across different categories, including juniors, women, and men. These teams are selected based on talent and performance, providing elite athletes with structured training programs, coaching support, and opportunities to compete at regional, national, and international levels.
- **Development Pathways:** ONPARA's commitment extends beyond competition to the development of athletes at all stages of their sporting journey. The organization provides pathways for athletes to progress from grassroots participation to elite levels, ensuring comprehensive support through coaching, training camps, and access to specialized resources.
- Through these initiatives, ONPARA not only promotes excellence in wheelchair sports but also cultivates a vibrant and inclusive community where athletes can thrive, achieve their athletic goals, and contribute to the growth and visibility of wheelchair sports across Ontario and beyond.
- Programming with WBC - ONPARA works directly with WBC on:
 - **Special Events:** ONPARA collaborates closely with WBC to organize and execute special events that promote wheelchair basketball, engage the community, and celebrate the sport's achievements.
 - **Hosting Nationals:** ONPARA takes an active role in hosting national wheelchair basketball championships, providing venues, logistical support, and ensuring a top-tier competitive environment for athletes across Canada.
 - **Offering the Gears Program:** ONPARA contributes to the implementation and management of the Gears Program, which aims to develop athletes at various skill levels through structured training, coaching, and competition.

- **Partnering in the delivery of the High-Performance Program:** ONPARA partners with WBC to deliver the High-Performance Program, which focuses on elite athlete development, national team preparation, and international competition readiness.
- **Talent Identification for National Teams:** ONPARA collaborates with WBC in identifying and nurturing talent at grassroots and regional levels, feeding into the selection and development processes for national wheelchair basketball teams.

These collaborative efforts between ONPARA and WBC are integral to the growth, development, and success of wheelchair basketball in Canada, fostering both grassroots participation and elite performance pathways.

Exclusive Events and Celebrations

Members of the ONPARA network have the opportunity to attend exclusive member events, celebrations, and recognition ceremonies dedicated to honoring the remarkable achievements and invaluable contributions of athletes within the community. These events serve as pivotal moments to connect with peers, celebrate collective successes, and inspire future generations of athletes with disabilities.

Discounts and Merchandise with Partners/Sponsors

ONPARA is actively seeking Partners and Sponsors to collaborate with, aiming to alleviate club expenses and offer distinctive opportunities that enhance the experience of athletes and the broader community. By partnering with ONPARA, businesses and organizations not only contribute to the growth and sustainability of wheelchair basketball but also gain access to a dedicated and engaged audience passionate about sports and inclusivity.

Joining the ONPARA Network today opens doors to a multitude of benefits and opportunities. Athletes, coaches, and supporters become part of a supportive and empowering community dedicated to nurturing talent and fostering personal growth. Members of the ONPARA Network enjoy:

1. **Financial Support:** Partnerships and sponsorships help offset club expenses, ensuring that resources are available for training, equipment, travel, and competition.
2. **Exclusive Opportunities:** Through collaborations with sponsors, ONPARA members gain access to unique opportunities such as specialized training clinics, educational workshops, and networking events.
3. **Recognition and Exposure:** Partners and sponsors receive recognition for their support through various channels, including event promotions, digital platforms, and media coverage, enhancing their visibility within the community and beyond.
4. **Community Engagement:** Being part of the ONPARA Network means connecting with like-minded individuals who share a passion for wheelchair basketball and inclusive sports. It's a chance to build meaningful relationships, exchange ideas, and inspire one another to achieve greatness.

5. **Empowerment and Support:** ONPARA fosters an environment where athletes are empowered to reach their full potential, both on and off the court. The ONPARA Network provides support through mentorship programs, leadership opportunities, and resources to promote personal development.

By joining the ONPARA Network, partners, sponsors, and members contribute to a thriving community dedicated to creating opportunities, celebrating achievements, and advocating for inclusivity in sports. Together, we can continue to break barriers, challenge perceptions, and redefine what is possible for athletes with disabilities.