

TABLE TENNIS

ABOUT THE SPORT

Table tennis has been included in the Paralympic Games since the inaugural Games in Rome, 1960. **Men and women compete in individual and team events either while standing or from a wheelchair.**



ELIGIBILITY

While performing a variety of movements and skills, athletes are examined and depending on how well they execute these movements they are assigned a point score and assigned a classification rank. Classifying athletes based on functional ability allows all athletes, regardless of their disability, an equal opportunity to compete against one another.

MODIFICATIONS

Aside from a few minor modifications, rules used to govern Paralympic competitions are the same as those for able-body table tennis competitions and are regulated by the [International Table Tennis Federation](#). There are a few rule modifications for wheelchair athletes:

- ▶ **Sitting players are permitted to call 'let' if the ball is not playable** because it leaves the table on either side of the receiver's court, or after bouncing on the receiver's side of the court, the ball bounces back in the direction of the net (backspins).
- ▶ **Athletes are permitted to use a wheelchair equipped with a footrest**, but if at any time during play the footrest or the athlete's feet touch the ground, the offending athlete loses one point.
- ▶ **In the doubles competition either athlete is permitted to attempt to return the ball back over the net.**
- ▶ In doubles if an athlete is playing from a wheelchair, **the wheelchair is not allowed to extend beyond an imaginary extension of the centre line.** If it does, the official will stop the play and a point will be awarded to the opposing pair.

In order to accommodate athletes with varying disabilities, equipment modifications have been created to give all athletes a chance to participate. For example, strap-on paddles may be used for athletes with grip difficulties and players with minimal hand and wrist function may use a table tennis cuff, which allows a more natural and secure placement of the paddle in the hand.

