



NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

Co-Presented by:



National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) - Medical Criteria

Participation is open to Veterans having spinal cord injuries, lower extremity amputations, multiple sclerosis, or other neuro-muscular conditions. Physical disabilities must be permanent and measurable and require a wheelchair for sport participation. All Veterans registering for the NVWG must be eligible to receive care at a VA medical facility. When a Veteran's diagnosis and eligibility to compete is in question, we will refer to the eligibility criteria appropriate for that person to participate in other community wheelchair sports organizations. Medical clearance must be provided by a physician, physician assistant or a nurse practitioner. A full and complete neuromuscular exam must be completed on all Veterans new to the NVWG. The neuromuscular exam portion can be completed by a physical therapist or occupational therapist.

All activities include physical exertion and training is highly recommended prior to participating in the event. If the Veteran is new to the NVWG, we recommend a consult to a rehabilitation therapist/specialist to assist developing a conditioning program appropriate to their goals and level of participation.

Medical Conditions that meet NVWG eligibility criteria include:

- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
- Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA)
- Spinal Cord Injury (must include if complete or incomplete paraplegia or quadriplegia, Level of Injury and ASIA Impairment Scale).
- Head Injury/Traumatic Brain Injury/Polytrauma (w/impairments requiring a wheelchair for sports)
- Lower Limb Salvage
- Major Lower Limb Loss (excludes toe amputations or upper extremity)
- Multiple Sclerosis (w/impairments requiring a wheelchair for sports)
- Other neurological disorders causing disabling neuromuscular function (case by case)

Medical Conditions that do NOT meet the criteria for participation in the NVWG:

- Functional Movement Disorder (Conversion Disorder)
- Hip, knee and ankle surgeries/replacements
- Degenerative Joint Disease (DJD), Degenerative Disc Disease (DDD)
- Radiculopathy
- Peripheral neuropathology
- Osteoarthritis (OA)
- Low Vision
- Diabetes Mellitus (DM)



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- Pain syndromes (Central Pain Syndrome (CPS), Fibromyalgia, Chronic Low Back Pain (CLBP), etc.)
- Mental Health (as primary diagnosis and/or only diagnosis)
- Cardiovascular/Respiratory disease
- Systemic/Metabolic disease
- Spinal Stenosis if no physical impairment requiring wheelchair is present
- Rheumatologic conditions and other systemic joint conditions

If at any time the medical condition of your patient changes so that they would not be safe to participate, please contact the NVWG Office at NVWGInfo@va.gov. If you have any questions regarding your patient's medical clearance you can contact the NVWG Medical Director.

Regards,

Kenneth Lee, MD
Medical Director, National Veteran Wheelchair Games
Kenneth.Lee8@va.gov