

Wheelchair Tennis Facts

USTA MIDWEST

Why Wheelchair Tennis:

Wheelchair Tennis is one of the world's most popular wheelchair sports, with a growing base of players in the U.S. The USTA is dedicated to providing top-flight programming and developmental opportunities to wheelchair athletes of all ages and backgrounds. The goal, above all else, is for the athletes to learn the sport of tennis and have fun.

Who plays Wheelchair Tennis:

Anyone with a physical disability who cannot run and play able-bodied tennis can play wheelchair tennis. Standing players who have a condition that prevents them from running or a person who uses a wheelchair for all of their mobility or for part of their mobility can play using a wheelchair.

What are the adaptations in Wheelchair Tennis:

Wheelchair tennis is one of the most integrated and exciting sports to play and watch. There are no modifications to the racquet, tennis balls or court size. Wheelchair tennis follows the same rules as able-bodied tennis with one exception; two bounces are permitted when needed.

How do Wheelchair players compete in tennis:

Wheelchair players compete in singles and doubles. They can play with/against other wheelchair players or able-bodied players. Wheelchair players can play on USTA Travel Team Leagues along with able-bodied players and compete in any sanctioned or non-sanctioned USTA event.

Divisions start at the C level, then B, A, and Open. There is also a Quadriplegic Division.

Rule Highlights:

- Two bounces are permitted if needed. The first bounce needs to be in, the second bounce can be anywhere.
- If the ball hits the player's chair before hitting the ground, the point belongs to the opponent. The chair is an extension of the player's body.
- On the serve, if any part of the wheel is touching the baseline or the imaginary extension of the hatch mark before the player strikes the ball, it is considered a foot fault.
- During play, no part of a wheelchair player's foot may touch the ground.
- All other rules are the same.
- In the Quadriplegic division, players must be certified and meet minimum requirements, including the use of a power chair.

Where can I play Wheelchair Tennis:

The USTA sanctions wheelchair tennis tournaments throughout the country, creating play opportunities for all skill levels. In addition, wheelchair tennis players can earn a national ranking to ensure they're matched with players of a similar skill level, and there are opportunities for players to represent the U.S. in international competitions, from the Paralympics to the Parapan Am Games.

One of the ways the USTA continues to succeed is through awarding grants to organizations that promote and develop the growth of wheelchair tennis and use the sport of tennis to build stronger, healthier communities.

Find us on Facebook: [USTA Midwest Wheelchair Tennis group](#)

Visit our website at usta.com/midwest/adaptiveandwheelchair

For information on how you can get involved, please contact:
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