

How Wheelchair Racing Started

Wheelchair racing is a fast and exciting sport. It combines an athlete's skill with wheelchair technology.

Wheelchair sport started in England after World War II. It was a great way for people injured in the war to exercise and have fun. However, it was thought that wheelchair racing might be bad for the competitors, so often there was a doctor or a nurse waiting at the finish line. In 1952, wheelchair athletes came from other countries to compete in wheelchair sports in England.

Cheri Becerra-Madsen of USA wins the women's 400-metre race at the 2000 Paralympic Games in Sydney.





A wheelchair basketball game in Rome, 1960



The first international games for people with disabilities was held alongside the Olympic Games in Rome, in 1960. In 1964, the games were held again, alongside the Tokyo Olympics, and this time, they were called the Paralympic Games. Today, the Paralympics immediately follow the Olympic Games and are held every four years.