



**NATIONAL
WHEELCHAIR
BASKETBALL
ASSOCIATION**

Amendment: Adjust the number of NWBA Divisions
Section: Section 11.1: DIVISIONS - Definition
Proposed by: Jess Markt – Denver Lady Rolling Nuggets

Summary of Proposed Change

I would like to submit a proposal to consolidate the Division III and Championship Division into a Men's Division. An additional division for the inclusion of veterans would be available via the Military Division.

Current Bylaw:

Section 11.1: DIVISIONS - Definition

A Division is an organizational group of six (6) or more NWBA active teams established to promote and administer competition in the U.S. Divisions will be established when a subgroup of six (6) or more of the NWBA member teams choose to affiliate to compete with other teams with similar characteristics or purpose (i.e., gender, age, level of competition, educational affiliation).

Proposed Bylaw

Section 11.1: DIVISIONS - Definition

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- I. Junior Prep
- II. Junior Varsity
- III. Collegiate
- IV. Women's
- V. Men's
- VI. Military

Rationale for change

Rational: v. Men's

Eliminates the need for separate Championship and DIII divisions and the extensive annual administrative process used to determine which division teams should belong to. It also provides a much more marketable division, as compare to Championship and DIII and the questions about why is there no DII division.

Teams would be free to play any men's team with national rankings being made based on a single top 50 list as compared to two top 20 lists.

It is recommended that invitations to nationals be based a Championship and a NIT format similar to that currently being used for the Junior division. Tournament size could be one of three formats in the future:



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1. Increase from 40 teams to 64 teams: two brackets of 32
2. Increase from 40 teams to 48 teams Championship bracket of 16 and a NIT bracket of 32
3. Decrease to 32 teams based on 8 regional qualifying tournaments: top 4 teams qualifying and a Championship and NIT bracket of 16 teams each.

Rational: vi. Military

The inclusion of a separate Military Division within the NWBA will allow the NWBA to take advantage of over eight years of wheelchair basketball program development by the US Paralympic/VA Adapted Sports Program, the Department of Defense, the US Armed Forces, 24 Warrior Transition Units and many VA Medical Centers across the country.

Thousands of veterans with a variety of diagnoses that may not be eligible to play under current or future NWBA eligibility criterion have been introduced to wheelchair basketball. After playing within their WTU teams, the Warrior Games and the Invictus Games, many of our veterans and active duty service members are being denied the opportunity to play with NWBA teams. As an organization that was founded by a VA Medical Center, we owe our veterans the opportunity to continue to play the exciting game of wheelchair basketball that they were introduced to during their rehabilitation.

Similar to the 5 team military league that plays in Texas and Oklahoma and the more than 15 WTU teams, the NWBA Military Division will organize competition between teams involving only veterans and active duty service members with diagnosed disabilities recognized by the VA. The NWBA will be establishing a task force to help coordinate future veteran and military initiatives.