



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CANADA NAMES ANNE LACHANCE NEW
DIRECTOR OF CLASSIFICATION**

Ottawa, ON – Wheelchair Basketball Canada in partnership with the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) is pleased to announce the hiring of Anne Lachance as the new Director of Classification.

“Anne is passionate and uniquely qualified to help us move ahead with plans to enhance our own classification program here in Canada, as well as establish guidelines and resources that can be used by other countries around the world,” said Wendy Gittens, Wheelchair Basketball Canada Executive Director.

As the Director of Classification, Lachance will oversee the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Wheelchair Basketball Canada’s classification program. She will be responsible for the development and production of a variety of comprehensive materials that will be used to help train new classifiers in Canada and abroad. These materials will greatly benefit athletes, coaches, and other members of the wheelchair basketball community by promoting a greater understanding of the classification system.

“Anything I can do to not only help Canadian classifiers, athletes, and coaches, but also make it easier for other countries to develop their own programs and train new classifiers will be very positive and rewarding,” said Lachance.

Lachance will work directly with IWBF to ensure accurate, reliable and consistent approaches to classification that can be applied worldwide.

“The IWBF is extremely excited to work closely with Wheelchair Basketball Canada and Anne Lachance on this project because it provides a unique opportunity to directly improve the available resources for classification around the world,” said Maureen Orchard, IWBF President.

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Wheelchair Basketball Canada

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Lachance is a native of St-Hubert, Quebec and has been a member of the IWBF Classification Commission since 2002, as well as a member of the classification panel at a number of competitions including the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games.

She has represented Wheelchair Basketball Canada as the classification chairperson since 2000 and has been highly active as an examiner, classifier, and head classifier at nearly three-dozen domestic events in the last ten years. In 2009 she was named the Wheelchair Basketball Canada Volunteer of the Year.

In addition, at a regional level she remains the head classifier for the AQFSR – a role she has held since 2004.

In 2003, she was awarded the Bill Hepburn Award from the Association Québécoise de Sport en Fauteuil Roulant (AQFSR) in recognition of unwavering dedication to the development of wheelchair basketball in Quebec.

Lachance played wheelchair basketball as a member of the CWBL (Gladiateurs), Women (Zodiaks) from 1992-1996. She also played stand-up basketball in highschool and college.

For more information please visit: www.wheelchairbasketball.ca

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About Classification in Wheelchair Basketball

The classification system in wheelchair basketball is designed to level the playing field so that athletes with varying functional abilities can compete fairly against one another. It is the process by which a team's total functional potential on the court is leveled off with respect to its opponent. Each individual player is assigned a classification number of 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, or 4.5 based on their functional capacity to complete the skills necessary to play - pushing, pivoting, shooting, rebounding, dribbling, passing and catching. It is not an assessment of a player's level of skill, merely their functional capacity to complete the task. In particular, the trunk movement and stability observed during these actual basketball situations, forms the basis for the assignment of a player to a particular class. In international competition a team may not play with more than 14 points on the floor at one time.





This ensures as much as possible that the balance of players on both teams will be fair.

About the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation

The IWBF is a non-profit international organization whose purpose is to provide opportunities for persons with a disability to play the game of wheelchair basketball. For more information about the IWBF, please visit www.iwbf.org.

About Wheelchair Basketball Canada

Wheelchair Basketball Canada is the national sports governing body responsible for the organization of wheelchair basketball in Canada. It is a non-profit, charitable organization that is the Canadian member to the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF). For more information about Wheelchair Basketball Canada, please visit www.wheelchairbasketball.ca.

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