

Ontario Wheelchair Basketball 2016-2017

2016-2017 Membership

Total: 182

Male: 126

Female: 56



Active Clubs/Programs (11):

- Burlington Vipers (Hamilton, Burlington, Oakville)
- Brock Niagara Penguins (St. Catharines, Niagara Falls)
- Cruisers Sports for the Physically Disabled (Halton & Peel Regions)
- London Wheelchair Basketball Association (London)
- Ottawa
 - 'I Love to Play' junior program (City of Ottawa/Ottawa Children's TC)
 - Ottawa Carleton Wheelchair Sports Association (Greater Ottawa)
- Tillsonburg Dragons (Tillsonburg)
- Toronto Tornadoes (North York)
- Twin City Spinners (Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge)
- Variety Village (Scarborough)
- Vaughan City Lashers (Vaughan)

Regular Drop In & Short-Term Programs (6):

- Barrie - *short term*
- Belleville – *drop in*
- Bloorview School (Toronto) - *drop in*
- Sault Ste Marie - *drop in*
- Simcoe County (Collingwood, Wasaga) – *short term*
- Sudbury – *drop in*

Note: short-term programs in 2015-2016 in Hamilton and Waterloo allowed for the successful recruitment of new athletes who were integrated into the Burlington Vipers and Twin City Spinners clubs for the 2016-2017 season.

Great Lakes Conference Wheelchair Basketball League

Division 2 (Competitive) League: 5 teams

- Burlington Vipers – 14 players
- Cruisers Suns – 12 players
- London Flyers – 11 players
- Twin City Spinners – 10 players
- Variety Village Rolling Rebels – 14 players

Total number of athletes: 61 (Male: 46, Female: 15)

of games played in 2016-2017 season: 30

of games per team: 12

of forfeit games: 4



Division 3 (Recreational) League: 8 teams

- Burlington Vipers – 10 players
- Cruisers Falcons – 9 players
- London Flyers – 9 players
- Niagara Penguins – 12 players
- Tillsonburg Dragons – 8 players
- Toronto Tornadoes – 6 players
- Twin City Spinners – 9 players
- Variety Village Rolling Rebels – 5 players



Total number of athletes: 68 (Male: 39, Female: 29)

of events in 2016-2017 season: 6

- Skills Clinics: 2
 1. # of participants: 18
 2. # of participants: 21
- Tournaments: 4
 1. # of participants: 25
 2. # of participants: 27
 3. # of participants: 41
 4. # of participants: 34

Note: Division 3 (Recreational) events are open to players from all across Ontario, even if they are not affiliated with a wheelchair basketball program or club.

Minis (U16) Festival

Total number of athletes: 21 (Male: 9, Female: 12)

Clubs represented:

- Burlington Vipers
- Cruisers Sports
- London Flash
- Niagara Penguins
- Toronto Tornadoes
- Unaffiliated



GEAR to Play Program

of sessions: 4

1. # of participants: 9
2. # of participants: 11
3. # of participants: 13
4. # of participants: 22

Age range: 8 – 53 years



“GEAR (Girls Enabled And Ready) to Play” is a wheelchair basketball program for players of all ages, skill levels, and physical abilities looking to play in a welcoming, low-pressure, and social environment. Basketball and basketball-related skills are practiced with emphasis on fun! GEAR to Play clinics are held in various locations throughout the province.

Women's Provincial Program

There are no age restrictions for participation in the Ontario Women's Provincial Program.

Pool of Athletes: 18

Able-bodied: 2

Age range: 16 – 53 years

Selection camp: 1

Training camps: 3

Ontario sent a full team of 12 players to both the CWBL

Women's National Championship in Burlington, ON from Apr 21-23 as well as the 2017 Défi Sportif in Longueuil, QC from Apr 28-30.



Junior Provincial Program

Athletes must be born in or after 1995 to be eligible for the 2019 Canada Winter Games and thus be part of the Ontario Junior Provincial Program for the 2015-2019 cycle.

Pool of Athletes: 17: (Male: 10, Female: 7)

Able-bodied: 3

Regional identification camps: 3

Selection camps: 2

Training camps: 8

Ontario sent two squads of five players to the 2017 Junior East Regional Championship in Halifax, NS from May 12-14.



Bridging the Gap

15 individual chair loans to wheelchair basketball athletes.

Group rentals in 2016-17:

Toronto Tornadoes: 2 wheelchair basketball chairs

City of Barrie: 8 wheelchair basketball chairs

Collingwood YMCA: 6 wheelchair basketball chairs

Canadian Tire: 8 wheelchair basketball chairs

ParticipAction: 4 wheelchair basketball chairs

26 wheelchair basketball BTG events

2426 people reached through wheelchair basketball awareness events



Schools Program

In the lead-up to the Men's U23 World Wheelchair Basketball Championship, the OWSA ran a school program in partnership with Wheelchair Basketball Canada with funding provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

- 30 new chairs
- 104 Schools
- 3,000 students playing
- 35,000 students introduced to wheelchair basketball



Event Hosting

The OWSA, in partnership with the Golden Horseshoe Disabled Sports Association (Burlington Vipers), hosted the 2017 CWBL Women's National Championship in Burlington, ON from April 21-23.



The OWSA staff were all involved with the Local Organizing Committee for the 2017 Men's U23 World Wheelchair Basketball Championship in Toronto from June 8-16. Our primary responsibilities included coordinating transportation, fan engagement, and volunteers.



A full report on these events will follow in the 2017-18 report.

*The OWSA would like to thank Wheelchair Basketball Canada for their on-going support.
We look forward to continuing our work with WBC to build a strong sport system for athletes in Ontario.*