Wheelchair Track and Road Event Group Plan

2026-2028 Wheelchair Track and Road Event Group Plan

Panel members: Andrew Dawes (NSW - panel facilitator), Louise Sauvage (NSW), Glen Lebeau (NSW), Fred Periac (ACT), Richard Colman (Vic), Jamie Green (QLD), Garth Plank (QLD), Chris Kent (WA).

All event group's objectives are guided by the overarching statement of *'Australia versus the Rest of the World',* the fundamental purpose of the panels is to:

- Bring together event group coaches/experts to discuss ways to enhance the "Spirit of the Event Group".
- Establish a Three-Year Event Group Plan which will include items such as a calendar of camps/workshops/initiatives aimed at upskilling emerging and established coaches and enhancing the overarching "Spirit of the Event Group"; and
- Identify and implement initiatives that will enhance Australia's capability to achieve sustainable success (i.e. by achieving Medal and Top 8 performances) at Major Championships by the 2032 Brisbane OGs and beyond.

The wheelchair track and road event group's plan, aims to achieve these objectives by:

1. Increase athlete **participation** in the event group around Australia. Participation will be driven by:
    - Para unit engagement
    - State Association collaboration
    - Paralympics Australia engagement

The prioritisation of increasing participation at all levels of wheelchair racing in this plan is in the pursuit of setting increased targets on High-Performance outcomes in the next plan period 2028 and beyond.

2. Provide **development** opportunities for existing athletes and coaches to collaborate with the purpose of providing those opportunities for athlete and coaches to up-skill and develop along a high-performance pathway.
3. Provide **coach education** resources and opportunities with the intention of empowering new coaches to take on new Wheelchair Track & Road (WCTR) athletes and recruit them into the WCTR coaching network.
4. Reduce **equipment** barriers by:
    - Maintaining an up-to-date national equipment database
    - Allocating budget to provide equipment where necessary

The wheelchair track and road event group's performance indicators:

1. Increased participation numbers in the competition pathway to be tracked by competitors at State and National Championships (Junior, Open, All schools) and Summer Down Under (Oz Track Classic)
2. Increased participation numbers to be tracked through classification master list of eligible athletes and conversion of those numbers to opportunities to trying wheelchair racing.
3. Increased number of coaches.

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Event group recommendations (note this is an advisory group)

1. Where possible provide input/consultation into the event grid for major domestic competitions.
2. Develop a domestic race series to improve the competition opportunities for development level athletes.
3. Work with State associations to advertise classification/ eligibility information as well as local training and competition opportunities for WCTR athletes.
4. Include WCTR specific education session at National Champs or all schools
5. Consideration of State Championships and Junior Nationals to have separate seated track event pathways to provide medal opportunities for seated track athletes.

2026 Event Group Initiatives

January	Formation meeting of the Panel incorporated at Summer Down Under. This also involved a mentor clinic pairing junior athletes with senior and international athletes alongside coaches to share technical knowledge and experiences.
April	Blacktown camp
October	Coaching Conference Education session.

2027 to 2028 Event Group Initiatives

2027	National Camp Domestic race series Education session at nationals
2028	Paralympic camp

Previous Activities

- Development Camp at Blacktown pre-nationals. Bringing in all ages and abilities ranging from juniors to high-performance athletes to train together and share knowledge.