



Fact Sheet

- What:** A multi-event sports and rehabilitation program for military service veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, amputations or certain neurological problems. Attracting more than 500 athletes each year, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games is the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world.
- Where:** Events will take place at the Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena, Spokane Convention Center, Lilac Lanes and North Bowl facilities, Whitworth University pool, Spokane Valley Gun Club, Spokane Falls Community College and Riverfront Park.
- When:** July 13-18, 2009
- Why:** The presenters of this event are committed to improving the quality of life for veterans with disabilities and fostering better health through sports competition. While past Games have produced a number of national and world-class champions, the Games also provide opportunities for newly disabled veterans to gain sports skills and be exposed to other wheelchair athletes. Usually, one quarter of the competitors have never before participated in any type of organized wheelchair sports competition.
- Presenters:** Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America, with financial assistance from corporate, civic, and veterans service organizations.
- Hosts:** The Spokane VA Medical Center and the Northwest Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America.
- Events:** Competitive events at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games include swimming, table tennis, weightlifting, archery, air guns, basketball, nine-ball, softball, quad rugby, bowling, handcycling, trapshooting, wheelchair slalom, power soccer, a motorized wheelchair rally, track and field. Exhibition events are also being planned. Athletes compete in all events against others with similar athletic ability, competitive experience or age.
- Admission:** Free. The public is most welcome.
- Information:** Carla Lippert, 2009 Games Coordinator (509) 434-7508; or Carla.Lippert@va.gov
- Media Contacts:** Kim Byers, VA Public Affairs (734) 845-3377; or (734) 417-6230
David Uchic, PVA Communications (202) 416-7667
Sandy Smock, Public Affairs Officer, Spokane VA Medical Center (509) 434-7216