

June 23, 2014

Wheelchair Basketball and Canada Games 2015 Report for MWSA AGM

Successes:

* The 2013 Summer Wheelchair Basketball Program took off at Jonathon Toews Community Centre. It was successful in recruiting initial athletes for the wheelchair basketball program that continued in the fall and winter.
* In the 2013 summer, MWSA began a partnership with the Spence Neighbourhood Association by showcasing the sport of Wheelchair Basketball to inner-city youth. Wheelchair Basketball received a good reception during these workshops.
* The 2013-14 Wheelchair Basketball season has grown to 12-15 regular participants. Wheelchair Basketball was played on Tuesday evenings at the University of Winnipeg. This program has started to identify potential athletes for the 2015 Canada Winter Games.
* MWSA received $2,800 in special project funding grants for the development of the Wheelchair Basketball program from Wheelchair Basketball Canada.
* MWSA member Aaron Moseley-Williams has been selected to the Men’s National Wheelchair Basketball Team.
* MWSA has started the training for coaches for the 2015 Canada Winter Games. Three coaches have been recruited – Jarrett Yaworksi, Chantelle Horel, and Jeff Watson.
* MWSA hosted two Wheelchair Basketball coaches and athletes clinics in January 2014 and May 2014.

Challenges:

* Participants: MWSA faces challenges recruiting a more diversified base of athletes for the recreational program. MWSA will need to continue to try to recruit more athletes of a broader age range to solidify a robust Wheelchair Basketball program.
* Canada Games 2015 – MWSA has identified athletes to compete in the Games, however, points wise there are challenges in recruiting lower-classed athletes. This is a struggle as only a certain amount of points are allowed on the court at one time. MWSA also faces challenges with securing appropriate funding to further enhance the training of the athletes and to get the athletes to competitions prior to the Winter Games.
* Collaboration: There has been work over the past year in collaborating with other sport bodies that have athletes with a physical disability. MWSA will continue to face a challenge to encourage them over to Wheelchair Basketball.

Looking Ahead:

* MWSA will continue to promote the sport via school programs, community initiatives (City of Winnipeg), social media, and partner organizations.
* MWSA received a grant from the Canadian Paralympic Committee for the development of wheelchair basketball in rural Manitoba. Plans are in the works for fall ‘14/winter ’15 programs in Brandon, Selkirk, Steinbach, Morden/Winkler/Carman.
* MWSA would like to recruit wheelchair basketball officials this coming year.