

# PARALYMPIC SPORTS FACTFILE



## Paralympic Archery

Number of athletes: 88 male and 52 female

Number of medal events: 9

Number of days: 7

Ticket prices: £0–£10

**Playing area:** Grass target range at least 80 m long and 28 m wide. Distance between archers and targets of 70 m.

**Competition format:** 3 classes: Standing (ST), Wheelchair 1 (W1) and Wheelchair 2 (W2). Individual and team competitions. Knockout format, with matches played over 5 sets of 3 arrows per archer (individual), or best of 24 arrows (team).

### Additional notes

- At London 2012, spectators will not require tickets for the ranking round.

Venue: The Royal Artillery Barracks



- Four temporary ranges will be constructed at the Royal Artillery Barracks in South East London.
- The venue will host the Olympic and Paralympic Shooting events and the Paralympic Archery event.
- The Royal Artillery Barracks can be reached by National Rail and the Docklands Light Railway.

## Paralympic Athletics

Number of athletes: 740 male and 360 female

Number of medal events: 170

Number of days: 10

Ticket prices: £0–£45

**Playing area:** Track and field events take place in the Olympic Stadium. The men's and women's marathons will take place on the streets of central London, finishing at The Mall.

**Competition format:** More than 25 different classes for athletes of different impairments and abilities.

### Additional notes

- Club Throw is unique to Paralympic Athletics. Athletes throw a wooden club with a metal base.
- Visit the International Paralympic Committee's Athletics website for information about individual event rules, facilities and athlete classifications.
- <http://ipc-athletics.paralympic.org>

Venue: Olympic Stadium



- The stadium has a capacity of 80 000. 25 000 of these seats are in a 'bowl' dug into the landscaping of the park, reducing the amount of steel needed to build the stadium.
- 6500 m<sup>3</sup> of crushed concrete was recycled from other buildings demolished on the Olympic Park to make the stadium's foundations.

## Boccia

Number of athletes:	104
Number of medal events:	7
Number of days:	7
Ticket prices:	£5–£15

**Playing area:** Boccia is played on an indoor court measuring 12.5 m by 6 m. The court surface must be flat and smooth such as a tiled or wooden gymnasium floor.

**Competition format:** 4 classes for wheelchair users. Athletes throw, kick or use a ramp to propel balls as close as possible to a smaller ball called the 'jack'. Each player, team or pair gets six balls for each 'end'.

### Additional notes

- Visit the Great Britain Boccia Federation website for full rules and more information about athlete classifications.
- [www.gb-boccia.org](http://www.gb-boccia.org)

### Venue: ExCeL



- Five separate arenas in the ExCeL exhibition centre will host London 2012 events.
- This existing venue has excellent transport links and facilities, so no construction work was required.
- A 180 m floating walkway has been created from reused shipping containers. This will make it easier for spectators to access rail facilities near the venue.

## Paralympic Cycling – Road

Number of athletes:	155 male and 70 female (Road and Track)
Number of medal events:	32
Number of days:	4
Ticket prices:	£0–£10

**Playing area:** A challenging loop course of 7–15 km. Approximately 25% of the course should be uphill sections, each with an average gradient of less than 8%.

**Competition format:** 12 classes. In the road race, all riders start together. In time trials, athletes set off at intervals, with the fastest athlete winning Gold. Athletes complete multiple laps of the course, with races ranging from 20 km to 120 km.

### Additional notes

- Athletes use four types of cycle depending on their class: tandem, handcycle, tricycle and bicycle.

### Venue: Brands Hatch, Kent



- The course starts and finishes on the race track, and takes in surrounding roads including challenging hills and bends.
- An existing motor racing circuit, Brands Hatch has hosted the British Grand Prix 12 times.
- The venue is only one hour's travel from the Olympic and Paralympic Village.

## Paralympic Cycling – Track

Number of athletes: 155 male and 70 female  
(Road and Track)

Number of medal events: 18

Number of days: 4

Ticket prices: £5–£45

**Playing area:** 250 m wooden track.

**Competition format:** 12 classes. Athletes compete in team and individual events, including sprints, time trials and pursuits (where one rider tries to overtake another).

### Additional notes

- Great Britain has an excellent record in Paralympic Cycling, winning 17 Gold Medals at Beijing 2008.
- Cyclists wear different coloured helmets depending on their class.
- Visually impaired athletes use tandem bikes, with an able-bodied 'pilot' steering.

### Venue: Velodrome



- Higher temperatures result in lower air resistance, increasing cyclists' performance. The multi-zone air conditioning in the Velodrome keeps the track warm and the spectators cool.
- The venue has a very light cable-net roof which curves in two directions. It contains 16 km of cabling and covers 12 000 m<sup>2</sup>.
- The track surface is made from sustainably-sourced Siberian pine.

## Paralympic Equestrian

Number of athletes: 78

Number of medal events: 11

Number of days: 6

Ticket prices: £5–£10

**Playing area:** 60 m by 20 m flat, level, sand-covered arena.

**Competition format:** 5 classes. Paralympic Athletes compete in Dressage events, where the horse and rider have to perform a series of set movements. Athletes complete set movements depending on their class or a Freestyle Test, for which they choose their own movements and music.

### Additional notes

- Visit the International Equestrian Federation website for Para-Equestrian Dressage rules, details about athlete classification and codes of conduct for the welfare of horses.
- [www.fei.org/disciplines/dressage/rules](http://www.fei.org/disciplines/dressage/rules)

### Venue: Greenwich Park



- The temporary equestrian arena will be constructed in London's oldest Royal Park.
- The park will only be closed for four weeks and will be restored to its previous state after the Games.
- Spectators can also visit the nearby National Maritime Museum and Old Royal Naval College.

## Football

Number of athletes: 160 (all male)

Number of medal events: 2

Number of days: 10

Ticket prices: £5–£35

**Playing area:** 42 m x 22 m pitch (5-a-side). 70 m x 50 m pitch (7-a-side).

**Competition format:** There is a 5-a-side and a 7-a-side competition, each with 8 teams. Two groups of four play in a round robin with the top two teams in each group progressing to the semi-finals.

### Additional notes

- 5-a-side football is played by visually impaired athletes. The pitch is surrounded by a rebound wall and there are no throw-ins or offsides.
- 7-a-side football is played by athletes with cerebral palsy. Throw-ins are made with one hand and there are no offsides.

### Venue: Riverbank Arena



- The new Riverbank Arena has a warm-up pitch and a competition pitch.
- A yellow football will contrast with the blue and pink pitch, which reflects the colours of the 2012 Games.
- The Riverbank Arena will be moved to a new location in the north of the Olympic Park after the Games!

## Goalball

Number of athletes: 132

Number of medal events: 2

Number of days: 9

Ticket prices: £5–£15

**Playing area:** 18 m by 9 m indoor court. Goals stretch the full width of the court. All court markings are textured to allow players to identify them.

**Competition format:** Played by visually impaired athletes. All players wear eyeshades so differently abled athletes can compete together. 12 men's teams and 10 women's teams play in group stages and then a knockout stage.

### Additional notes

- The ball contains two bells so athletes can hear it. The arena is silent during play.
- 190 sets of eyeshades will be used during the London 2012 goalball competition.

### Venue: Copper Box



- Specially designed and built for London 2012, this new permanent 7000-seat venue will be adapted after the Games to become a multi-use sports centre.
- Rainwater collected from the roof will be used to flush toilets.
- Recycled copper cladding gives the Copper Box its distinctive appearance.

## Paralympic Judo

Number of athletes: 84 male and 48 female

Number of medal events: 13

Number of days: 3

Ticket prices: £5–£15

**Playing area:** 10 m by 10 m mat called a 'tatami'. Mats have different textures to indicate different zones.

**Competition format:** Paralympic Judo is played by visually impaired athletes. There are 6 weight classes for women and 7 for men. In each class, athletes compete in a series of 5-minute knockout bouts.

### Additional notes

- A throw that forces an opponent onto their back, a submission by armlock or stranglehold, or pinning an opponent to the mat for 25 seconds are the three ways of scoring an 'ippon'. This wins a bout immediately.

### Venue: ExCeL



- Five separate arenas in the ExCeL exhibition centre will host London 2012 events.
- This existing venue has excellent transport links and facilities, so no construction work was required.
- A 180 m floating walkway has been created from reused shipping containers. This will make it easier for spectators to access rail facilities near the venue.

## Powerlifting

Number of athletes: 120 male and 80 female

Number of medal events: 20

Number of days: 7

Ticket prices: £5–£15

**Playing area:** A platform measuring 4 m by 4 m. A bench 0.61 m wide and no more than 0.5 m high.

**Competition format:** Athletes with different disabilities compete against each other in 10 weight categories, ranging from women's 40 kg to men's 100+ kg. Athletes lie on their backs and lower the weight bar to their chests, then bench-press it smoothly upwards to arms length. Athletes have three attempts.

### Additional notes

- [www.ipc-powerlifting.org](http://www.ipc-powerlifting.org)

### Venue: ExCeL



- 7 Olympic Events and 6 Paralympic Events will feature at ExCeL during London 2012.
- After the Games the venue will revert to its normal use as a world-class exhibition centre.
- No new construction was required to set up the five arenas which will host London 2012 events.

## Paralympic Rowing

Number of athletes: 48 male and 48 female

Number of medal events: 4

Number of days: 3

Ticket prices: £5–£10

**Playing area:** Rowing races take place on a straight 1000 m course, usually on a natural or man-made lake.

**Competition format:** Crews compete in heats with the best 2 boats from each heat qualifying for the final.

### Additional notes

- Paralympic rowing boats are adapted with special seats or additional buoyancy devices according to the disability of the athletes.
- Weather conditions can have a big effect on the outcome of a race. High winds will result in rougher water and slower times.

### Venue: Eton Dorney



- During the 2012 Games, Eton Dorney will have a maximum capacity of 30 000.
- As well as hosting national and international competitions, the venue is used by Eton College, who own and constructed it.
- The eight-lane course is 2200 m in length and has a separate return lane.

## Paralympic Sailing

Number of athletes: 80

Number of medal events: 3

Number of days: 6

Ticket prices: £FREE

**Playing area:** Harbour facilities and reliable weather conditions are required for Paralympic Sailing.

**Competition format:** Each medal event consists of a series of races, with points awarded for finishing positions. Men and women compete together in one-, two- and three-person keelboats.

### Additional notes

- Athletes with different disabilities compete against each other. Athletes are assigned additional points depending on how their disability affects their sailing ability.
- GPS tracking will allow spectators and TV viewers to see the exact position of each boat.

### Venue: Weymouth and Portland



- The National Sailing Academy in Weymouth and Portland is an existing world-class venue.
- An adjacent commercial marina will provide additional facilities.
- Dorset Police will secure 35 square miles of water around the competition area.

## Paralympic Shooting

Number of athletes: 100 male and 40 female

Number of medal events: 12

Number of days: 8

Ticket prices: £5–£10

**Playing area:** Indoor ranges for pistol and rifle shooting. Ranges vary between 10 m and 50 m.

**Competition format:** Competitors shoot rifles or pistols at a target from a sitting, standing or prone (lying down) position. Athletes are classed based on whether they can hold their firearm or whether they require a shooting stand for support.

### Additional notes

- [www.ipc-shooting.org](http://www.ipc-shooting.org)

### Venue: The Royal Artillery Barracks



- Four temporary ranges will be constructed at the Royal Artillery Barracks in South East London.
- The venue will host the Olympic and Paralympic Shooting events and the Paralympic Archery event.
- The Royal Artillery Barracks can be reached by National Rail and the Docklands Light Railway.

## Paralympic Swimming

Number of athletes: 350 male and 250 female

Number of medal events: 148

Number of days: 10

Ticket prices: £5–£45

**Playing area:** 50 m swimming pool with 8 lanes.

**Competition format:** 14 classes. Athletes compete in freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke, butterfly and medley events.

### Additional notes

- Some swimmers with visual impairments use a 'tapper' to let them know when they are approaching the end of the pool. The 'tapper' will tap them with a pole as they approach the wall.
- Competitors start from either a standing dive, a seated dive or from in the water.
- No athletes are allowed to wear any prostheses or assistive devices. Only swimming caps, bathing suits and goggles are permitted.

### Venue: Aquatics Centre



- Temporary 'wings' will be added to the new permanent Aquatics Centre to increase Games-time capacity to 17 500.
- The venue was designed by Zaha Hadid, who won Britain's top architecture award, the Stirling Prize, in 2010 and in 2011.
- It contains a 50 m competition pool, a 25 m diving pool and a 50 m warm-up pool.

## Table Tennis

Number of athletes: 174 male and 102 female

Number of medal events: 29

Number of days: 9

Ticket prices: £5–£15

**Playing area:** The table is 1.53 m wide and 2.74 m long. The table should be placed at the centre of a clear area measuring at least 14 m by 7 m. Tables must have a minimum 40 cm safety area between the edges and ends of the table and any legs or braces, to allow wheelchair users to move underneath the table.

**Competition format:** 5 classes for wheelchair athletes and 5 for standing athletes. 1 class for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

### Additional notes

- [www.ittf.com](http://www.ittf.com)

### Venue: ExCeL



- Five separate arenas in the ExCeL exhibition centre will host London 2012 events.
- This existing venue has excellent transport links and facilities, so no construction work was required.
- A 180 m floating walkway has been created from reused shipping containers. This will make it easier for spectators to access rail facilities near the venue.

## Sitting Volleyball

Number of athletes: 110 male and 88 female

Number of medal events: 2

Number of days: 10

Ticket prices: £5–£35

**Playing area:** 10 m by 6 m indoor court. The net is 1.15 m high for men and 1.05 m high for women.

**Competition format:** There are no classes and players with different disabilities can compete together. Teams compete in two groups with the top teams in each group progressing to the knockout phase.

### Additional notes

- Some part of a player's body between the buttocks and the shoulder blades must be in contact with the court when the ball is played.
- [www.wovd.info](http://www.wovd.info)

### Venue: ExCeL



- 7 Olympic Events and 6 Paralympic Events will feature at ExCeL during London 2012.
- After the Games the venue will revert to its normal use as a world-class exhibition centre.
- No new construction was required to set up the five arenas which will host London 2012 events.

## Wheelchair Basketball

Number of athletes: 144 male and 120 female

Number of medal events: 2

Number of days: 10

Ticket prices: £5–£45

**Playing area:** Court measuring 28 m by 15 m.

**Competition format:** 12 teams will compete in the men's tournament and 10 in the women's. Teams compete in two groups with the top four teams in each group progressing to the knockout phase.

### Additional notes

- Athletes with different disabilities compete against each other. Athletes are assigned additional points depending on how their disability affects their wheelchair basketball ability.
- [www.iwbf.org](http://www.iwbf.org)

Venue: Basketball Arena and North Greenwich Arena



- With over 70 matches to play, two venues will be used: the purpose-built Basketball Arena on the Olympic Park, and the North Greenwich Arena.
- Wheelchair basketball is played on a standard basketball court.
- Parts of the Basketball Arena may be reused at the 2016 Games in Brazil.

## Wheelchair Fencing

Number of athletes: 100

Number of medal events: 12

Number of days: 5

Ticket prices: £5–£15

**Playing area:** Wheelchair fencing is static. Wheelchairs are fixed in place by metal frames. The distance between the wheelchairs changes based on the arm lengths of the athletes.

**Competition format:** There are three different weapons used in wheelchair fencing: épée, foil and sabre. Bouts last for three rounds of three minutes, or until one fencer has scored 15 hits.

### Additional notes

- Fencers wear protective masks and clothing.
- Competitors are linked to an electronic scoring system which registers successful hits.
- [www.iwasf.com](http://www.iwasf.com)

Venue: ExCeL



- Five separate arenas in the ExCeL exhibition centre will host London 2012 events.
- This existing venue has excellent transport links and facilities, so no construction work was required.
- A 180 m floating walkway has been created from reused shipping containers. This will make it easier for spectators to access rail facilities near the venue.

## Wheelchair Rugby

Number of athletes:	96
Number of medal events:	1
Number of days:	5
Ticket prices:	£5–£35

**Playing area:** Played on a standard basketball court measuring 28 m by 15 m.

**Competition format:** All players have a disability which affects both the arms and the legs. 8 mixed teams compete for a single Gold Medal. Players score goals by crossing the opponent's goal line while in possession of the ball.

### Additional notes

- Wheelchair rugby is so fast-paced and physical that it has earned the nickname 'murderball'.
- The ball used for wheelchair rugby is identical to a standard volleyball.
- [www.iwrf.com](http://www.iwrf.com)

### Venue: Basketball Arena



- After the wheelchair basketball competition, officials will have just 12 hours to get the venue ready for the wheelchair rugby competition.
- It is one of the largest temporary venues ever built for any Olympic Games.
- Parts of the Basketball Arena may be reused at the 2016 Games in Brazil.

## Wheelchair Tennis

Number of athletes:	112
Number of medal events:	6
Number of days:	8
Ticket prices:	£5–£35

**Playing area:** Indoor or outdoor tennis courts, with hard, grass or clay surfaces.

**Competition format:** Knockout. Athletes compete in men's and women's Singles and Doubles, and in Quad Singles and Quad Doubles competitions for athletes with an impairment that affects three or more limbs.

### Additional notes

- In wheelchair tennis, players are allowed two bounces of the ball. The second bounce can be outside the boundaries of the court.
- [www.itftennis.com/wheelchair](http://www.itftennis.com/wheelchair)

### Venue: Eton Manor



- Eton Manor will have nine competition courts and four warm-up courts.
- It will also have training pools for the aquatics events.
- After the Games, it will be transformed into a multi-use sports centre.

## PARALYMPIC SPORTS FACTFILE

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