

# 22<sup>nd</sup> National Veterans Wheelchair Games

## 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:** Cleveland, Ohio (The Cleveland Convention Center, Cleveland State Natatorium, Palisades Palace Lanes, VA Medical Center Brecksville, Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School, Euclid Sports Plant, and other area venues.)
- When:** July 9-13, 2002
- Why:** The sponsors of this event are committed to improving the quality of life of veterans with disabilities and to fostering better health through sports competition. While past Games have produced a number of national and world-class champions, the Games mainly provide opportunities for newly disabled veterans to gain sports skills and be exposed to other wheelchair athletes. Last year, approximately one quarter of the competitors had never participated in any type of organized wheelchair sports competition.
- Sponsors:** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), with financial assistance from corporate, civic, and veterans service organizations.
- Hosts:** The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center  
The Buckeye Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Events:** Competitive events include swimming, table tennis, weightlifting, track and field, archery, air guns, basketball, softball, rugby, bowling, wheelchair slalom, a wheelchair rally, and a 5-kilometer road race. Track events include 100-, 200-, 400-, 800-, 1500- and 5000-meter races. Field events include club throw, shot put, discus, and javelin. Athletes compete in all events against others with similar athletic ability, competitive experience or age.
- Admission:** Free. The public is most welcome.
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