

Are the Paralympics fair?

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The first Paralympic Games were held in 1948, but they were called the Stoke Mandeville Games, after the hospital in Aylesbury which treated wheelchair users who had been injured in the war.

In 1960, they were renamed the Paralympics Games, because they ran in parallel with the Olympic Games.

Of course now, the Games have grown bigger and bigger, with the range of competitors far beyond those original wheelchair users.

Nowadays, there are sports for athletes with many different disabilities. To make sure that the contest is fair, you have to be grouped into a category against other athletes who best match your physical or mental disability.

After all, sport is only fun or competitive if you pit it like against like.

If you would like to take part in the Paralympic Games, you have to have one of 10 different impairments.

These include things such as visual impairment, being short of stature or having limb deficiency.

First, athletes have to be assessed by a panel to make sure that they're eligible. Then, they get to choose the sport that best suits their particular disability.

But these classifications can sometimes be controversial, with a temptation for a small minority to try to get an advantage.