USTA WHEELCHAIR HP PROGRAM

Vision and Philosophy
USTA Player Development
**VISION:** Create a world-class wheelchair tennis program while remaining fully aligned with USTA Player Development in all aspects and following the guidelines of the Player Development Philosophy. We will continue to grow the sport through the collaboration with Community Tennis while utilizing resources provided by USTA PD. Part of this vision is to consistently, year in and year out, through the continued support of resources (financial and tangible), be competitive with the most successful countries in the world in the production of world class wheelchair tennis players.

**MISSION:** To produce world-class wheelchair tennis players that have mastered the process of professionalism and to represent the USTA and Team USA with all of the standards created and embraced by USTA Player Development and the USTA High Performance Wheelchair Staff.

**GOALS:** The goal of the USTA HP Program is to create a pathway for all athletes entering the program to reach their potential as professionals and individuals.

- **Professional Culture** - To create an environment that supports, enhances, educates and mentors both the athlete and the person on their Paralympic and Professional journey.

- **Resources** - To provide both financial (performance grants) and physical resources for the athletes (coaching and USTA National Campus - i.e. training camps), to the best of the ability of the USTA and its Staff, in order to ensure success for our players.

- **Success** - This will be measured by an individual’s ranking and tournament results, along with Team USA and Individual International Competitions (i.e. BNP Paribas World Team Cup, Paralympic Games and Parapan American Games) results.
DEFINING THE MISSION...

These are the 9 professional standards that will be expected from any athletes participating within the USTA HP Wheelchair Tennis Program. Without exception, each individual will be held to the highest of standards and qualities that exemplify a Champion’s behavior and professionalism, as defined by USTA Player Development.
9 ON-COURT/OFF-COURT STANDARDS:

1. “Engaged”
   On-Court: Full focus on what matters in the moment.
   Off-Court: Professional courtesy (eye contact, energy, enthusiasm) when engaged in a personal conversation involving a sponsor, colleague, NGB staff member or industry leader.

2. “Resilient”
   On-Court: Ability to bounce back and refocus after failure.
   Off-Court: Has a healthy balance between competition and post-match life. Winning or losing does not define oneself.

3. “Professional”
   On-Court: Demonstrates character, exhibits behaviors and attitudes of an athlete that is consistently prepared to practice and compete with full engagement.
   Off-Court: Carries oneself with dignity and pride once competition ends and understands the importance of attitude, gratitude and opportunity.

4. “Respectful”
   On-Court: Acts in the way of appreciation, courteous to others, focused on the best in others, honors rules of game.
   Off-Court: Treats opponents, staff, volunteers, tournament directors/referees, and VIP’s with the utmost respect, dignity and professionalism at all times.

5. “Tough”
   On-Court: Endures periods of hardship and adversity in training and competition, accepts challenges fully motivated to succeed, embraces pressure, physically and emotionally strong.
   Off-Court: Represents themselves, their families, Team USA and Country with an ability to embrace and endure the hardships of the tour and the wheelchair tennis lifestyle with a sense of pride, optimism and vigor.
6. “Determined”
On-Court: Pushes through adversity and struggle, and continues to strive for success in a positive, productive manner.
Off-Court: The athlete will display positivity and the ability to endure this adversity both on and off the court.

7. “Confident”
On-Court: Unshakable self-belief in abilities and skills, expects to be successful.
Off-Court: This confidence can be shown with a certain level of professionalism and dignity, without crossing the line over into arrogance and egotistical behavior.

8. “Communication”
On-Court: Timely, clear and decisive in delivering information to teammates, coaches or staff.
Off-Court: Consistent, reliable and truthful communication with teammates, staff and event organizers shall be the norm.

9. “Accountable”
On-Court: Willing to accept constructive criticism when needed and accepts praise for success when warranted, with humility and grace.
i.e. Unprofessionalism towards competitors and officials, self-destructive behavior
Off-Court: Professional behavior at all times will be demanded. A player’s behavior represents all of what that player represents and on Team USA. Their behavior is displayed on behalf of the larger group as a whole.
i.e. Public intoxication, unprofessional attitude towards staff, blasphemy, unprofessionalism towards fellow teammates and competitors

**Failure to follow any/all of the above standards could result in the following consequences:**
- Warning
- Loss of Quarterly funding, timed suspension
- Indefinite suspension from the USTA HP program