

Student Ambassador Activities

The Kariya City Asian Games and Asian Para Games Organizing Committee is working on a variety of projects to create excitement and awareness ahead of the upcoming game events. As part of these efforts, 11 students from Aichi University of Education were appointed as Student Ambassadors on August 5, 2025. Student ambassadors are working to create greater interest in the Games and events held in Kariya City through this booklet and by highlighting what makes them exciting from the perspective of students.

Through this booklet we hope more people learn about wheelchair rugby and Kariya City. There are still many untold wonders in Kariya City, and they are waiting for you! Join us in promoting the Asian Para Games from Kariya City!

Even if you do not usually watch sports or are not very familiar with wheelchair rugby, we would be happy if this booklet helps spark your interest in the sport. The Asian Para Games will be happening in Kariya City in October, and we hope you'll join us in supporting Team Japan!



Aichi University of Education Student Ambassadors

Wheelchair Rugby Tournament Information

Asian Para Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026

As of August 6, 2026

Dates Monday October 19th to Friday October 23rd, 2026

Venue Wing Arena Kariya

How to get there

Use the Kariya City Community Bus called Karimaru, either the Nishizakai Line or Hitotsugi Line, and get off at Sogo Undo Koen (General Athletic Park).

From JR or Meitetsu Kariya Station, or Meitetsu Fujimatsu Station, take the Meitetsu Bus and get off at Kariya Sogo Undo Koen.

Check here for tournament information!



Check here for shuttle bus information!



Become a Wheelchair **Rugby** Fan in **Kariya**!

Time to Discover! Wheelchair Rugby



A new kind of excitement is waiting for you.

©Megumi Masuda/JWRF

We'll show you around.



Introducing the JWRF's Japan National Team Development Squad Members

Student Reporters Ask the Questions!
Why is Wheelchair Rugby so exciting?

In your downtime:
Must-try Restaurants in Kariya City

Check here for the digital pamphlet!



Directed by the Student Ambassadors of Aichi University of Education

Digital Guide Available Here

Time to Discover!

Wheelchair Rugby



What kind of sport is it?

Wheelchair rugby is a sport created by people with physical disabilities affecting their arms and legs, and it combines elements of rugby, basketball, volleyball and ice hockey for an exciting and hardhitting sport that is enjoyed around the world.



What are the rules?

1 A thrilling 4-on-4 mixed-gender sport!

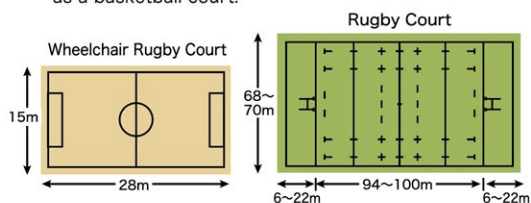
There are 4 players on the court for each team. There's no limit to the number of substitutions, and the teams can be mixed genders.

2 Each game has four 8-minute periods.

Each game consists of four 8-minute periods. If the score is tied at the end, the teams play a 3-minute overtime period to determine the winner.

3 The court is the same size as a basketball court

Wheelchair rugby is played on a court the same size as a basketball court.



4 The Two Types of Competition Wheelchairs (also known as Rugby Wheelchairs)

Offensive Type



Compact and easy to maneuver. This chair is designed for speed and quick movements.

Defensive Type



Designed to stop opponents in motion with the front bumper.

5 Teams are made with a player classification system

Each player is given a score from 0.5 to 3.5 depending on the severity of their disability.

The total classification for the 4-player team must be less than 8 points. Female players receive bonus points*, and their classification is marked with an "F".

* Female players classified as 0.5F to 1.5F are counted toward the team total as 8.5 points, while female players classified as 2.0F to 3.5F are counted as 9.0 points.



6 A volleyball-style ball is used.

The ball for wheelchair rugby is a specially designed ball based on a size 5 volleyball. Unlike standard rugby, forward passes are allowed in wheelchair rugby.

In standard rugby only lateral passes are allowed.



Standard Rugby Ball
Length: between 28-30cm
Circumference: roughly 58-62cm
Weight: approx. 410-460g



Wheelchair Rugby Ball
Diameter: roughly 21cm
Circumference: between 65-67cm
Weight: approx. 260-280g

Find Out More!

Check here for rules and players!



JWRF
Wheelchair Rugby:
Beginner's Guide

Check here to see the game in action!



JWRF Official YouTube Account
Beginner's Guide to Understanding
Wheelchair Rugby

JWRF

(Japan Wheelchair Rugby Federation)
Japan National Team
Development Squad Members

Jersey Number 3
class 0.5F



Kurahashi Kae

Jersey Number 2
class 0.5



Hasegawa Yuki

Jersey Number 5
class 0.5



Ando Natsuki

Jersey Number 51
class 0.5



Suzuki Kohei

Jersey Number 6
class 0.5



Yokomori Fumiya

Jersey Number 23
class 1.0



Ogawa Hitoshi

Jersey Number 9
class 1.0



Imai Tomoaki

Jersey Number 1
class 1.0



Wakayama Hidefumi

Jersey Number 11
class 1.5



Kusaba Ryuji

Jersey Number 10
class 1.5F



Tsukimura Tamami

Jersey Number 22
class 1.5



Norimatsu Seiya

Jersey Number 14
class 2.0



Nakamachi Shunya

Jersey Number 8
class 2.0



Kabetani Tomoshige

Jersey Number 4
class 2.0



Haga Masayuki

Jersey Number 35
class 2.5



Aratake Masahito

Jersey Number 24
class 2.5



Hori Takashi

Jersey Number 54
class 2.5



Aoki Soshi

Jersey Number 52
class 2.5F



Nishimura Yuna

Jersey Number 21
class 3.0



Ike Yukinobu

Jersey Number 7
class 3.0



Ikezaki Daisuke

Jersey Number 13
class 3.0



Shimakawa Shinichi

Jersey Number 32
class 3.5



Hashimoto Katsuya



Student Reporters
Ask the Questions!

Always Joking Around!?

The Team's Resident Mood-Maker!



©MegumiMasuda/JWRF



Q3 What is your pre-game meal or routine?

A I love takoyaki! I can't get enough of that fluffy texture and savory sauce! As for routines, it's my mission to not have one. I don't want to make my mood depend on some particular ritual, so before games I usually just act like normal and joke around.

Q4 What are you doing on your days off?

A I'm a big fan of the K-pop group TWICE (my favorite is Minal). I watch their videos and go to their concerts whenever I can. And, because I'm such a great dad... (haha), I enjoy playing with my kids – so I spend a lot of my days off hanging out and playing with them.



Why is Wheelchair Rugby so exciting?

A special interview with two members of the Japanese team!

INTERVIEW ①

Wakayama Hidefumi | Class 1.0
Jersey Number 1

[Profile] Born 1985 in Numazu, Shizuoka Prefecture. He first discovered wheelchair rugby when he watched a documentary about an American player. After seeing players have so much fun on the court, he gave the sport a try himself. He is a trusted veteran of the Japanese team, and he was able to achieve his dream of winning a gold medal at the Paris Paralympic Games.

Q1 What makes wheelchair rugby so exciting?

A Speed! Impact! The moment the wheelchairs crash into each other. And the fact that it's a mixed-gender sport. But what I really love is seeing players with different classifications work together, making the most of the different strengths of offensive and defensive wheelchairs to set up and score tries. The fact that teamwork is absolutely essential is the most exciting point of this sport.

Q2 What should fans watch for during a game?

A Of course, they should look at me. Jokes aside, they should watch the teamwork. It's easy to focus on the action where the ball is, but it is better to look at the whole court. Try to pay attention to how the players move together and use the open space.

MAP 1 Wakayama's Favorite Spots in Kariya City!

Western Restaurant
Rakuore



This Western-style restaurant is known for its heartfelt dishes and warm hospitality. The chef, who trained at a long-established hamburger steak restaurant, takes great care with every dish, including its juicy hamburger steaks.

3-58 Sumiyoshicho, Kariya City
TEL 0566-91-3335
Lunch 11AM to 3PM, Dinner 5PM to 9:30PM (Sunday and Mondays until 9PM)
*Last order is 30 minutes before closing
Closed Tuesdays
Parking available (18 spots)
15 minutes on foot from JR Kariya Station or Meitetsu Kariya Station

The demi-glace sauce looks amazing. I want to try their specialty hamburger steak – it looks like they've put a lot of effort into perfecting it.

©JWRF2025



Aiming to Compete

on the World Stage!



©MegumiMasuda/JWRF

Q2 What should fans watch for during a game?

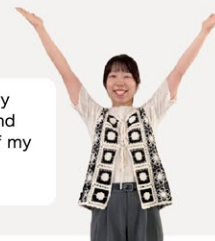
A Wheelchair rugby has frequent substitutions, so it is interesting to pay attention to which players are on the court together and how the team manages the total classification points of the players on the court, and of course the strategies behind those combinations.

Q3 What is your pre-game meal or routine?

A Without a doubt, white rice before a game! Even when we compete overseas, the Japanese food prepared by the team boosts me up. Also, ever since my time as a soccer player, I had a routine of doing everything from the right side first. For example, when I get into my wheelchair, I always start with my right foot.

Q4 What are you doing on your days off?

A I spend a lot of time with my dog! We go to dog parks and take walks together. One of my favorite things is to play vigorously with my dog.



INTERVIEW ②

Nishimura Yuna | Class 2.5F
Jersey Number 52

[Profile] Born 2002 in Ito City, Shizuoka Prefecture. Having played soccer since childhood, she went on to compete in national tournaments during high school. After becoming a wheelchair user, she took up para sports in 2023 and set records for Japan in two events. Now, with her strong determination to become a world-class athlete, he has set her sights on wheelchair rugby.

Q1 What makes wheelchair rugby so exciting?

A There are players with varying levels of disabilities, and I love that everyone has the chance to make the most of their own strengths and abilities. Also, this sport requires a great deal of tactical thinking because we need to build strategy around the individuality of the players.

MAP 2 Nishimura's Favorite Spots in Kariya City!

Panel Cafe Kariya



Fluffy Souffle Pancakes

AKARIYA 2F, 1-73 Minamisakuramachi, Kariya City
TEL 050-5868-9062
Open 11AM to 4:45PM (last order is 4PM)
Closed Tuesdays
No Parking Available
2 minutes on foot from JR Kariya Station or Meitetsu Kariya Station

This popular shop is known for its fluffy pancakes and authentic burgers. In a calm and welcoming setting, visitors can enjoy a leisurely lunch or relaxing café time.

I love sweets! I saw a picture of the pancakes at this shop and I was immediately enticed – it was love at first sight!

©JWRF2025



Specialty Shops found by the Student Ambassadors

Pick up!
KARIYA

Must-try Restaurants in Kariya City

Stop by for something delicious between the matches. Here are some of our favorite spots in Kariya City for you to try.

MAP 3

Local favorite for handmade noodles!

Kisan



This popular restaurant is known for its rich Hatcho miso stew udon and flavorful Japanese stone-ground zaru soba. Kisan also creates Imokawa udon, which was a traditional style of udon noodle served along the Tokaido Road in the Edo period of Japan.



Hatcho Miso Nikomi Udon (Imokawa Noodles)

7-14-1 Hitotsugicho, Kariya City
TEL 0566-27-8537
Lunch 11AM to 2:30PM (last order 2PM)
on Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Dinner 6PM to 9:30PM (last order 8:30PM)
on Friday, Saturday, Sunday Closed Wednesdays
and Thursdays *Open only for lunch on Tuesdays
Parking available (8 spots)
20 minutes on foot from Meitetsu Fujimatsu Station
(10 minutes on foot from the Kariya-City General Athletic Park)



Japanese Stone-Ground Zaru Soba



Exterior view

MAP 4

For great seafood, visit Nihon-no-Umi!

Nihon-no-Umi Main Branch (Seafood & Sushi Restaurant)



Nimai Sushi

5-27-3 Shindencho, Kariya City
TEL 0566-22-7377
Monday through Friday Lunch 11AM to 3PM (last order 2:30PM)
Dinner 5PM to 9:30PM (last order 9PM)
Saturday and Sunday open 11AM to 9:30PM (last order 9PM)
Closed for end of year holidays
Parking available (22 spots)
25 minutes on foot from Meitetsu Fujimatsu Station (10 minutes on foot from Kariya-City General Athletic Park)

Fresh seafood purchased at the market - at great prices! Their specialties include the famous Nimai Sushi, featuring two pieces of fish on each sushi, along with tempura, simmered fish, grilled fish, and many other dishes.



Exterior view



Hokkai Bowl

Wing Arena Kariya



1 Arata, Tsujicho, Kariya City
*Check the backside for access information.

The venue for the Asian Para Games

Wing Arena Kariya is the centerpiece of the Kariya-City General Athletic Park. The wheelchair rugby matches will be held in the main arena.

Worth Coming Back For

Hatcho Miso Nikomi Udon (Imokawa Udon)

The combination of Imokawa udon and Hatcho miso is perfect, and you can only get it here!



KARIYA CITY MAP

Aichi University of Education

Ise Wangan Expressway

Fujimatsu Station

Meitetsu Nagoya Line

Worth Coming Back For

Hitotugi Station

JR Tokaido Shinkansen

Worth Coming Back For

Aizuma Station

JR Tokaido Line

Kariya Station

Kariyashi Station

Noda-Shinmachi

Higashi-Kariya Station

Worth Coming Back For

Ogokie Station

Meitetsu Line

Worth Coming Back For

Hokkai Bowl

Plentiful gifts from the sea! Feel the deliciousness with every bite.

Worth Coming Back For

Beef Tongue and Hanayori Hamburg

The premium beef tongue and melt-in-your-mouth Hamburg steak is a satisfying combination!

Worth Coming Back For

Hokkai Bowl

Plentiful gifts from the sea! Feel the deliciousness with every bite.

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Hokkai Bowl

Plentiful gifts from the sea! Feel the deliciousness with every bite.

MAP 5

Stylish and Mature Cafe-Bar Experience

Cafe and Gallery Asore



Worth Coming Back For

Teppan Indian Pasta

Step back into the Showa Era. Try this old-school Japanese comfort food of teppan spaghetti with homemade curry.



Teppan Indian Pasta

Advance Square Kariya Sakuramachi 104,
1-22 Sakuramachi, Kariya City
TEL 0566-95-8888
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursdays open for Lunch 11AM to 4PM,
Dinner 6PM to 11PM Friday open for Lunch 11AM to 4PM,
Dinner 6PM to 12AM Saturday open from 11AM to 12AM
Sunday open from 11AM to 5PM
Closed Mondays No Parking Available
Connected to the JR Kariya Station and
Meitetsu Kariya Station Buildings

This charming cafe-bar offers retro Japanese comfort foods in a cozy and nostalgic atmosphere. The most popular dishes include the Teppan Neapolitan pasta, Teppan Indian curry, Simmered Chicken Katsu Curry and the rich flavored and slightly bittersweet caramel custard pudding!



Teppan Neapolitan Pasta



Custard Pudding



Interior view

MAP 6

The Ultimate Hangout through Sports

Booby's British Pub Kariya



Fish and chips

Add the malt vinegar to boost the flavor! It's the ultimate food to eat while watching sports.



Fish and chips

Meiko Building 1st Floor, 3-46 Sakuramachi, Kariya City
TEL 0566-95-6556
Monday to Friday open 11AM to 2AM
Saturday and Sunday open 3PM to 2AM
No Parking Available
3 minutes on foot from JR Kariya Station or
Meitetsu Kariya Station

Fish and chips are the first thing that comes to mind when we see this shop. Crispy on the outside, but fluffy on the inside - these fish and chips are seriously addictive! There is also a selection of Mexican-inspired dishes like nachos and quesadillas available as well.



Interior view



Exterior view

MAP 7

Exquisite Umami Flavor Hamburg Steak Shop

Hanayori Hamburg Kariya



Worth Coming Back For

Beef Tongue and Hanayori Hamburg

The premium beef tongue and melt-in-your-mouth Hamburg steak is a satisfying combination!



Beef Tongue and Hanayori Hamburg

MGK Building 1st Floor, 5-33 Sakuramachi, Kariya City
TEL 050-5868-9062
Lunch 11:30AM to 2:30PM, Dinner 5PM to 10PM
(last order 9PM) Closed Mondays and the 1st and 3rd
Tuesdays of each month.
No Parking Available
5 minutes on foot from JR Kariya Station or Meitetsu Kariya Station

The signature dish, Hana Yori, Hamburg, showcases the delicious umami flavor of the meat. To finish things off, their aromatic garlic rice is highly recommended!



Interior view



Garlic rice