



ALL ABILITY INCLUSIVE BEACH ACCESSIBLE WHEELCHAIR

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

PURPOSE / INTENT:

All Ability Inclusive Beach Accessible Wheelchair program has been established by Ability West to provide Service Users with disabilities in assistance for easier access to the sand and water at the Beach.

In an effort to ensure safety and consistency of the program, these guidelines delineates operational procedures for the distribution, use, and care of the wheelchairs.

DEFINITIONS:

Disability Beach Access: A location designated by Galway City Council approved access features.

Beach Accessible Wheelchair: A Wheelchair equipped with specialized wheels that allows for movement across multiple types of surfaces including, sand, dirt, and water. **This is not a floatation Device.**

Wheelchair User: An individual that requires the use of a Wheelchair for the purpose of mobility.

Attendant(s): An individual(s), staff, accompanying the Wheelchair User for personal assistance.

Insurance: In order for an individual who is not a Service User of Ability West to use the All Ability Inclusive Beach Accessible Wheelchair, they must have appropriate insurance cover in place that fully indemnifies Ability West in the event of an accident.

Adjustable Headrest: Is compatible with the user's size and position, as its rotation is possible.

Armrest: Swivelling and retractable; they enable to make easier transfer of wheelchair user in/out of the chair.

Waist Belt/Harness: Enables to optimize the wheelchair user's support and body posture into the seat.

Parking Brakes: Pivoting and stainless, they immobilize the wheelchair on a slope and facilitate transfers.

PROCEDURES:

Beach Accessible Wheelchairs shall be issued on a first come, first served basis only. The Wheelchair User/Staff shall contact Ms. Amanda Hayes Physiotherapy / Occupational Therapy Administration (Tel: 091 540910) at Blackrock House, Salthill, Galway to arrange the schedule from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 am – 2:30 pm.

The Beach Accessible Wheelchair is lightweight and collapsible with its weight of 17 kg (37.5 lb.) and designed to be pushed by Attendant(s) other than the person sitting in it.

The safety belt must be worn at all the times to keep the Wheelchair User safe. The shoulder and groin straps of the harness can be removed if not required.

The User, Attendant(s), and Staff, shall inspect the Beach Accessible Wheelchair for any damages, functionality, and safety issues prior to proceeding with the equipment.

The Beach Accessible Wheelchair User is required to have an **Attendant(s) present at all times while in use**. Attendants and Users should not undertake tasks beyond his/her ability. E.g. ramp, deep sand

The Beach Accessible Wheelchair User shall access the beach at designated access points in Salthill **only**.

The Beach Accessible Wheelchair or its **User/Occupant shall not be left unattended**.

This Beach Accessible Wheelchair is not to be taken in water over **6” inches in depth** (manufacturers recommend a maximum depth) as the chair may become buoyant and overturn. **The Beach Accessible Wheelchair is not a flotation device!!!!**

The Beach Wheelchair may float in the water. The Beach Wheelchair has been used in deeper water by steadying the wheelchair with enough Attendant(s), however the Beach Wheelchair must never be used as a ‘**flotation device**’. In deeper water, it will float, become unstable and require ‘considerable effort’ in controlling its stability. **Be safe and enjoy the beach!**

When the Beach Accessible Wheelchair is in the water up to the seat level, (6” inches) the Service User can get out of the Wheelchair if they can swim well or have a life jacket on with enough support around. If the Service User & Attendant(s) are unable to swim, it is **advisable to bring and wear own’ life jacket** for safety reasons and the Service User must be accompanied at all times.

Beach water can be very cold for some Service Users; so knowing what type of **wetsuit to wear is essential** to brave the harsh conditions. It is advisable to bring & wear own wetsuit if requires. You may check Galway’s average sea temperature and decide in advance to use the wetsuit or not.

No running while pushing the wheelchair regardless if occupied or not.

Service User and Attendant’s personal property will be stored at their own risk. Ability West assumes no liability for lost or stolen items.

The Beach Accessible Wheelchair shall be **returned to Leisureland Storage** prior to the closing of Leisureland. Storage should be locked and the key should be returned to reception at Leisureland, Salthill, Galway.

The Wheelchair should kept **cleaned, i.e. rinse with fresh water or wipe it down** with particular attention to wheel hubs and axles prior to the storage in good condition for optimum performance. Any damage or repairs required, must be reported to Ms. Amanda Hayes at Blackrock House.

PRE-USE SAFETY CHECKS

BEFORE EACH USE CHECK THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- ✚ I have read 'All Ability Inclusive Beach Accessible Wheelchair' 'Standard Operating Guidelines' and understand its contents.
- ✚ That the wheels are securely attached.
- ✚ That the park brakes are working. Try by pushing the buggy with the brakes on.
- ✚ That no parts appear broken or loose.
- ✚ That the tyres are inflated to the correct pressure. Low tyre pressure will cause instability and make pushing the wheelchair more difficult.

Tyre inflation Rear tyres: Soft sand 0.7 PSI Hard surfaces 3.5 PSI Front tyre 0.7 PSI

If any part is damaged or fails to operate correctly do not continue to use the wheelchair.

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Beach Wheelchairs

Available for use now at Leisureland, Salthill
To book contact Ability West on 091 540 900

Enjoy a day at the beach!
Check in at Leisureland reception
Collect beach wheelchair
Changing facilities available.

To book contact:
Amanda Hayes, Administration
Physiotherapy/Occupational Therapy Dept.
Ability West, Blackrock House, Salthill, Galway
Office: 091 540900
Email: Amanda.Hayes@abilitywest.ie

Funpark Reception & Changing area
Leisure Land Mini Golf
Beach wheelchairs
Wheelchair access
Ladies beach

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