

# Wheelchair User

Please note these are general strategies

## **EACH BOY IS UNIQUE**

It is therefore important to speak to his parent(s) to gain individual relevant information.

## **Useful Website**

[www.wheelchairnet.org](http://www.wheelchairnet.org)

## **For further information on this issue please contact:**

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET**

# **Basic Facts for Leaders**

# **Wheelchair User**



# Before Giving Help

## ALWAYS TALK TO THE WHEELCHAIR USER

### ASK THE BOY ABOUT —

- Special requirements
- Personalised problems
- Other needs or wishes

- When moving a wheel chair user, always make sure there is assistance.

# Safety Guidelines

## ALWAYS REMEMBER TO —

- 1 Ask the boy how he prefers to be moved
- 2 Check the position of his legs, feet and arms to prevent injury. Put feet on footrests
- 3 Use both hands to ensure safe control and balance
- 4 Avoid rough handling, rushing or quick turns
- 5 Keep an eye for other boys and hazards
- 6 Always treat the person with respect:
  - Be aware of his needs
  - Always kneel or stoop so you're at the same eye level when talking!
  - Tell the boy what you are doing
  - Position the chair so that he can participate in activity
- 7 Apply brakes at proper times, i.e. waiting or resting lifting leaving chair unattended



# Useful Strategies

## REMEMBER NEVER TO —

- 1 Tip the chair forward or too far back
- 2 Lift the chair by the armrests
- 3 Force a chair to move, if stuck
- 4 Lift the boy unless you have been trained to do so

## KNOW HOW TO OPERATE THE FOLLOWING —

- Armrests and footrests
- Safety strap or belt
- Folding backrest
- Push handle and lifting point
- Brake(s) and brake lever(s)
- Tipping lever
- Other safety and comfort features, such as cushion