

✓ Wharf to Wharf Race Wheelchairs to be discussed for Wharf race

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SANTA CRUZ — The clash between the Wharf To Wharf Race and local wheelchair athlete Jerry Deets has caught the attention of Borland International, the major sponsor of the race.

Deets has been pushing for a wheelchair division to be added to the popular run from Santa Cruz to Capitola Village and has threatened to take the race to court.

Wednesday, a spokesman for Borland International, the Scotts Valley software company which is offering \$20,000 in prize money this year, indicated race officials are going to meet and discuss adding a special division for wheelchair racers.

"The Wharf To Wharf Race and Borland will be talking to see what accommodation we can come to," said Doug Cuenin of Borland. "We'll be meeting very soon."

Deets, a world-class professional wheelchair athlete, said that because there is no wheelchair division in the annual 6-mile race, he will compete in the open field. And, he said, if he wins, he will claim the \$5,000 first prize.

Race officials have said they won't pay Deets any prize money. Because he is in a wheelchair, they said, he doesn't qualify.

Deets said if they don't pay, he'll sue, charging discrimination.

There are no special divisions in the race and officials have said the finish area of the course, down a hill into Capitola Village, is unsafe for wheelchair racers.