



What is a Paralympic Sport Club?

Since 2007, U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), has partnered with community organizations from across the country to create a network of Paralympic Sport Clubs. Paralympic Sport Clubs are community-based programs developed to involve youth and adults with physical and visual disabilities in sports and physical activity, regardless of skill level. All Paralympic Sport Club programs and activities are based in the community and are run by the local organization. The local organization could be a Parks and Recreation department, nonprofit organization, rehabilitation hospital, school system, college/university, or other community-based organization that has the interest, expertise and resources to successfully plan and implement a program.

With 21 million Americans with physical and visual disabilities, including veterans and military personnel who have sustained serious injuries while on active duty, local Paralympic sport programming has become an important community need.

U.S. Paralympics is committed to working with community organizations across the United States to ensure Paralympic Sport Clubs are operating in strategic locations in all 50 states.

The Paralympic Sport Club program is designed to be implemented within an agency's menu of programs. U.S. Paralympics provides the opportunity to use Paralympic marks in promoting your local program, and provides the opportunity to co-brand Paralympics with your existing local program or agency.

The objectives of Paralympic Sport Club program include:

- Develop community-based sports clubs that recruit and involve youth and adults with physical and visual disabilities in sports and physical activity regardless of skill or interest level.
- Develop a comprehensive, community-based Paralympic Sport Club network as a foundation for a Paralympic athlete pipeline.
- Provide community-based sport program opportunities for injured service members and veterans to continue sport participation upon their integration back into their home communities.
- Create a national, unified, community-based Paralympic Sport Club network that provides a "grassroots" branding campaign to educate Americans on the opportunities and benefits inherent in sport and physical activity as practiced by people with physical and visual disabilities.

Program Launch

The Paralympic Sport Club program was launched in November of 2007. Through partnerships with community-based organizations, the initial launch encompassed approximately 20 key markets throughout the country, followed by a nationwide roll-out. There are currently more than 140 active Paralympic Sport Clubs in more than 40 states.

Paralympic Sport Club Benefits

The Paralympic Sport Club program provides an excellent opportunity to connect your organization to new audiences, increase and sustain sport and physical activity opportunities in your community and raise the profile of Paralympic sport nationally.

In addition, there are a variety of specific benefits offered to Paralympic Sport Clubs including:

Marketing

- A license to use the Paralympic Sport Club mark
- A prominent hyperlink from the U.S. Paralympics website, www.usparalympics.org, to the local organizations website
- Ability to post news releases and other promotional information on the U.S. Paralympics website and in other Paralympic communications tools, within parameters established by the USOC
- Eligibility to host a Paralympic Experience each calendar year in the local organizations region or community
- Access to the Paralympic Sport Club Tool Kit, which contains an apparel discount program and graphic templates such as electronic newsletters, posters, banners, recruitment cards, certificate of participation, tri-fold brochure, a Paralympic Experience Flyer and more
- Opportunity to post the local organizations organizational profile in the Paralympic Resource Network, an online database that lists Paralympic sport programs nationwide

Resources

- Receive a \$250 stipend to assist with costs associated with hosting a Paralympic Experience
- U.S. Paralympics will assist with accessing a Paralympic athlete to make an appearance at your Paralympic Experience
- Opportunities to apply for grants through the competitive Olympic Opportunity Fund to enhance and expand programming
- One tuition scholarship for a Paralympic Sport Club coach or executive, as selected by the local operator, to attend the USOC Paralympic Leadership Conference
- Subscription to the U.S. Paralympics e-newsletter, containing information about upcoming events, partner organizations and other Paralympic sport information
- Paralympic Sport Club technical support
- Access to a volunteer management and background check program through National Recreation and Parks Association

Recognition

- Eligibility to nominate athletes and coaches for consideration by U.S. Paralympics to participate in each Paralympic Games Experience that may be held in conjunction with the Paralympic Games
- Consideration for annual award nominations such as the Amazing Leader and Amazing Sport Club awards

- Occasional national partner recognition and sponsorship at the local level

Paralympic Sport Club Performance and Responsibilities

The local organization is responsible for the following in the role as the operator of the Paralympic Sport Club:

Governance

- Establishment of a local steering/advisory committee or board of directors to oversee the Paralympic Sport Club or representation of Paralympic Sport Club activity within an existing committee or board of directors

Use of Paralympic Sport Club Mark and Paralympic Mark

- Use of the Paralympic Sport Club mark, pursuant to such guidelines as established by the USOC
- Use of “Paralympic Sport *City*” as identity for the Paralympic Sport Club
- Consistent use of electronic, print and other communications methods to disseminate U.S. Paralympics materials provided by the USOC to the Paralympic Sport Club’s members, constituents and the public

Activities/Program Requirements

- Conduct existing or new programs in one or more Paralympic sport(s) for athletes with physical and visual disabilities on a minimum of 40 days per calendar year
- Conduct a minimum of one Paralympic Experience per calendar year
- Conduct or promote a minimum of one competition per calendar year to your Paralympic Sport Club athletes; promoting could include educating an athlete on competitive opportunities that exist through other sport organizations

Participant/Athlete Information Gathering

- Maintaining an active and accurate profile of the population of athletes served, services provided, and outcomes achieved by the Paralympic Sport Club, and submitting reports in the manner required by U.S. Paralympics as allowed by relevant regulations and standards of good practice

Insurance Requirements and Financial Responsibility

- Carry appropriate insurance levels for liability coverage
- The parties acknowledge and agree that the organization is financially responsible for the Paralympic Sport Club and that U.S. Paralympics shall not incur any financial obligation for or to the Paralympic Sport Club

Applying To Become a Paralympic Sport Club

Once an organization has determined that it meets the Paralympic Sport Club parameters, the organization will complete an application. Applications are available online at www.usparalympics.org/sportclubs and by request.

Applications can be submitted throughout the year via regular mail, fax or email. There is no application deadline or fee for submitting a Paralympic Sport Club application. Applicants will be notified within 21 days from the date the application is received by the USOC as to the status of their application.

Once the application has been accepted, a PSC agreement will be jointly executed between the applicant and U.S. Paralympics.

Key Contacts

To view current clubs and program models across the country, visit www.usparalympics.org/findaclub. For additional information on any area of the Paralympic Sport Club (PSC) program, please contact the following U.S. Paralympics team member:

For help with PSC program application materials or Club development:

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About U.S. Paralympics

U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, is dedicated to becoming the world leader in the Paralympic sports movement and to promoting excellence in the lives of persons with physical disabilities. Visit the U.S. Paralympics Web site at

www.usparalympics.org.

