



What is a Paralympic Sport Club?

Since 2007, U.S. Paralympics, a division of the United States Olympic Committee, has partnered with community organizations from across the country to create a network of Paralympic Sport Clubs. As part of the Gateway to Gold strategy, Paralympic Sport Clubs are community-based programs developed to involve youth and adults with Paralympic-eligible impairments 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 Paralympic sport program.

With over 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 48 states.

The Paralympic Sport Club program is designed to be implemented within an organization's menu of programs. U.S. Paralympics provides the opportunity to use Paralympic Sport Club logos in promoting the local program, as an extension of the Olympic and Paralympic Family, and provides the opportunity to co-brand Paralympics with existing local programs or organizations.

As part of the Gateway to Gold strategy, the objectives of the Paralympic Sport Club program include:

- Developing community-based sports clubs that recruit and involve youth and adults with Paralympic-eligible impairments into eligible Paralympic sports
- Providing consistent community-based sport programs as a foundation for athlete development and identification to include skill development, coaching, access to competition structures, classification opportunities and athlete support
- Developing a comprehensive, community-based Paralympic Sport Club network to provide connections to Paralympic National Governing Bodies/High Performance Management Organizations (NGB/HPMO) for sport development opportunities
- Providing community-based outreach and awareness activities to assist in elevating knowledge of Paralympic sport and connecting to new audiences
- Creating 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 Paralympic-eligible impairments

Paralympic Sport Club Benefits

The Paralympic Sport Club program provides an excellent opportunity for organizations to connect to new audiences, increase and sustain sport and physical activity opportunities in the 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

- Ability to use the Paralympic Sport Club logo
- A hyperlink from the U.S. Paralympics website, USParalympics.org, to the organization's website
- Eligibility to host a Gateway to Gold Experience and Performance event each calendar year in the local organization's state or region
- Opportunity to post an organizational profile in the Find-A-Club Database, an online database that lists Paralympic sport programs nationwide

Resources

- Ability to participate in the [PSC Excellence Program](#) designed to support and recognize Paralympic Sport Clubs as they evolve their sport programming in various areas, including athlete identification and coaching education, and to recognize their contribution to the Paralympic Movement
- Opportunities to apply for grants that are periodically developed to enhance and expand programming, identify athletes and develop coaches
- Access to the Gateway to Gold mobile application
- Access to the Team USA Mobile Coach App with possible fees associated with its use in selected sports
- Access to educational and sport development material such as the American Development Model for Paralympic Sport, sport classification material, Paralympic Sport Coaching Guide and more
- Access to a network of National Governing Bodies/High Performance Management Organizations for collaboration opportunities and sport development resources

Recognition

- Opportunity to engage with Paralympic corporate partners in select, specially designed programs which support Paralympic Sport Club growth and development at the discretion of the USOC
- Ability to post job openings on the TeamUSA.org website
- Access to the Paralympic Sport Club Facebook group to continue networking and receive additional information from U.S. Paralympics

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 Logo

- Use of the Paralympic Sport Club logo, pursuant to such guidelines as established by the USOC
- Use of "Paralympic Sport *Location*" logo 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 PSC's members, constituents and the public

Activities/Program Requirements

- Consistently conducting new or existing ongoing programs in one or more Paralympic sports for athletes with a Paralympic-eligible impairment (physical, visual and/or intellectual) of any age and skill level on a minimum of 40 days 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
- Encouraging coaching staff to obtain sport specific certifications through the appropriate National Governing Body/High Performance Management Organization for selected sports
- Conducting a Gateway to Gold Experience or Performance (in coordination with the U.S. Paralympics and/or NGB/HPMO) event in the Local Operator's state or region
- Provide access to athlete development information including sport pipelines and pathways, classification opportunities, and actively assist in connecting prospective athletes to High Performance programs supported by the USOC or applicable NGB/HPMO

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 submit quarterly and annual reports as 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
- Commercial General Liability Insurance with limits of not less than \$1 million per occurrence including:
 - Coverage for Bodily Injury, Property Damage, and Personal and Advertising Injury;
 - Participant Legal Liability providing coverage for the Local Operator resulting from liability from at least players, coaches, officials, managers, team workers, staff members, cheerleaders, medical personnel, media personnel and any other personnel who may be granted authorization to enter any restricted area(s);
 - Non-owned and Hired Auto Liability (unless such coverage is included within a commercial automobile liability policy);
 - Employees and volunteers included in the definition of insured parties; and
 - USOC designated as an Additional Insured with respect to the acts or omissions of the Local Operator.
 - Sport accident insurance covering all participants involved in PSC activities with limits of not less than \$25,000 per covered accident, with a deductible not to exceed \$500 per accident. Coverage may be written on a secondary basis to coverage carried by or on behalf of any individual participant.
- Automobile Liability Insurance for all owned or leased vehicles with limits of not less than \$1 million combined single limits and including the USOC as an Additional Insured with respect to the acts or omissions of the Local Operator.
- Sport accident insurance covering all participants involved in PSC activities with limits of not less than \$25,000 per covered accident, with a deductible not to exceed \$500 per accident. Coverage may be written on a secondary basis to coverage carried by or on behalf of any individual participant.
- 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

Minimum Standards for Athlete Safety

Safe Sport Requirements and Policy

- The USOC requires its sport development partners to refrain from all forms of misconduct, which include without limitation:
- All forms of sexual misconduct, including child sexual abuse
 - Emotional misconduct
 - Physical misconduct
 - Bullying
 - Harassment
 - Hazing
- It is a violation of the USOC's safe sport policy to engage in any form of misconduct, and is also a violation of the safe sport policy if the Local Operator knows of misconduct, but takes no action to intervene. The Local Operator is required to report violations of the USOC's safe sport policy and suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse.

Criminal Background Checks

- Each Paralympic Sport Club shall require criminal background checks for those individuals it formally authorizes, approves or appoints (a) to a position of authority over, or (b) to have frequent contact with, athletes participating in the Paralympic Sport Club. For purposes of clarification, a Paralympic Sport Club is considered to formally authorize, approve or appoint an individual in instances where the Paralympic Sport Club has control over the appointment process.

Education and Training

- Each Paralympic Sport Club shall require education and training concerning the key elements of its safety program for those individuals it formally authorizes, approves or appoints (a) to a position of authority over, or (b) to have frequent contact with, athletes participating in the Paralympic Sport Club.

Reporting

- Each Paralympic Sport Club shall establish a procedure for reporting misconduct.

Applying to Become a Paralympic Sport Club

In case you come across other organizations that may benefit from the program, please note the following information. Once an organization has determined that it meets the Paralympic Sport Club parameters, the organization will complete an application. Applications are available online at <http://uspara.us/PSCapplication> and by request.

Applications can be submitted throughout the year. There is no deadline or fee for submitting a Paralympic Sport Club application. Applications will be reviewed monthly. Applications received before the 10th day of the month, will be reviewed and a status will be provided by the last day of the month. Applications received on or after the 10th day of the month, will not be reviewed until the following month.

Once the application has been accepted, a PSC agreement will be jointly executed between the applicant and the United States Olympic Committee.

Contacts

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

Calli Doggett, Manager, Paralympic Sport Development
(719) 866-4727
Calli.Doggett@usoc.org

About U.S. Paralympics

U.S. Paralympics, a division of the United States 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 website at USParalympics.org.

