

## WHO WE ARE

**The mission** of the Athletics for All Task Force is to provide the tools and guidelines by which coaches, athletic directors and school administrators can include students with physical disabilities in interscholastic sports.

**The task force** is composed of national disability sports organizations that are working together to promote and facilitate inclusion of students with disabilities in sports.

**Working toward inclusion together with schools, coaches, adaptive community partners, students, and parents.**

## TASK FORCE MEMBERS

- Active Policy Solutions
- American Association of Adapted Sports Programs
- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program
- BlazeSports America
- Bridge II Sports
- Competitive Edge Management
- Disabled Sports USA
- Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association
- Lakeshore Foundation
- Louisiana Games Uniting Mind and Body
- National Center on Health, Physical Activity & Disability
- National Wheelchair Basketball Association
- Special Olympics
- United Association of Blind Athletes
- Wheelchair & Ambulatory Sports USA



## WHAT WE OFFER

### Athletics for All offers:

- Introductory sport guidelines
- Best practices for integrating adapted sports into high school programs
- Facilitation of training for coaches and officials with adaptive sports experts
- Access to a network of adaptive sports organizations
- Resources and tools for specific sports



## ROAD TO INCLUSION

The Rehabilitation act of 1973 requires that students with disabilities be provided equal opportunity for participation in extracurricular athletic programs.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued Dear Colleague Letter clarification in January 2013. It clarifies when and how schools must include students with disabilities in mainstream athletics programs, defines what true equal treatment of student athletes with disabilities means, and encourages and provides a roadmap for schools to create adapted programs for students with physical disabilities.

## WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

### Benefits of participating in sports:

- Supports academics: students are more likely to have better grades, school attendance and lower dropout rate
- Builds discipline, self-esteem, confidence and independence
- Enforces teamwork, skill development and goal setting
- Promotes healthy lifestyle
- Can be a predictor of later successes in college, career and community

## Offering Sport Resources for:

- Alpine Skiing
- Boccia
- Goalball
- Sitting Volleyball
- Track and Field
- Wheelchair Basketball
- Swimming
- Tennis



[www.athleticsforall.net](http://www.athleticsforall.net)