

What is the best way to get the word out in my school district so students with physical disabilities are aware of the opportunity to take part in wheelchair track and field?

All school system personnel who serve students with physical disabilities need to be aware of the opportunity so they can share the information with their students. Make sure to inform the Special Education Director, the 504 Coordinator, Related Services Staff, Adapted P.E. Teachers, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapists, School Nurses, School Counselors, Itinerant Staff, O.I. Teachers, and the Transportation Coordinator.

Which students are eligible to participate in wheelchair track and field?

All high school students with a permanent physical disability may be eligible to compete on their high school's track and field team. Examples of the types of disability groups served include cerebral palsy, spina bifida, spinal cord injury, amputee, muscular dystrophy, and other physical disorders.

What's the primary difference between Special Olympics and adaptedSPORTS™?

Adapted sports athletes are not eligible for Special Olympics. The two organizations target different populations. AAASP serves students with physical disabilities, while Special Olympics serves people with intellectual disabilities.

What key areas do coaches need to be aware of when working with a student-athlete with a physical disability?

Coaches who have students with physical disabilities on their school team need to know what type of the disability the student has and if the student has any medical precautions. This information can be obtained by reviewing the student's health/physical form. Coaches may also elect to speak with the student's teacher and parents to garner additional information. Coaches also need to be make sure the student has the proper equipment for wheelchair track and field and that the practice/competition area is accessible including the restrooms. Remember to treat the student as an athlete the same as any other team member, set clear goals and objectives for successful workouts and competitions.

What are the top benefits identified by parents whose children participate?

- The opportunity to play and excel in sports
- The ability to work hard, participate in a group, and set goals
- Increased motivation and improvement in academics
- Active engagement, developing friendships with students, mentors, and coaches

- ***If my school has an athlete who would like to participate in the Adapted Events offered in Track and Field, who should I contact?***

Contact Sarah Bridenbaugh at sbridenbaugh@khsaa.org.