

# The **adaptedSPORTS**<sup>TM</sup> Report

Off the Sidelines - Into the Game!

Fall/Winter 2006-07

## National Track & Field Recommendations Issued



AAASP has responded to the growing interest in the development of track and field programs for America's high school athletes with physical disabilities. In October, the Association released its **National Recommendations for Interscholastic Track & Field Competitions for Students with Physical Disabilities**.

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## ALABAMA IS IN THE GAME

The Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) hit a historic home run in July when the association's Central Board voted to partner with AAASP to lay the groundwork for athletic programs for students with physical disabilities in the Alabama school system.

The decision -- reflective of growing national consideration of disability sports in the schools -- makes the AHSAA the second state athletic association to form a strategic partnership with AAASP. Since 2001, the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) and AAASP have enjoyed a dual-governing alliance, wherein AAASP oversees adapted athletics (sports adapted for participation by student-athletes who have physical disabilities) in GHSA member high schools. This slam-dunk for athletic parity makes Georgia and Alabama two of the top seeds in athletic programming for student-athletes with physical disabilities.

The initial thrust of the AHSAA/AAASP union will be to build awareness and raise funds.

*"We've watched Georgia and we want this*

*in Alabama,"* said Dan Washburn, AHSAA Executive Director. *"I would like to think that within three years, we'll have maybe three competitive sports, up and running. We need to get people involved. There are people in the corporate world who would like to see this happen and we have good senators and representatives with interests in getting a project just like this up and running. In five years, I hope to see a good solid program, and in 10 years, I'd like to see us along with Georgia in leading the nation."*

Although details of the partnership are yet to be defined, the AHSAA and AAASP are shooting for program starts as early as 2008. -----

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## NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC TRACK AND FIELD COMPETITIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

Any high school student whose primary disability is physical should be afforded the opportunity to compete on their high school track and field team.

The State High School Athletic Association will determine those events in which the student-athlete with a disability may compete, adding additional competitions as interest and participation grow.

The student-athlete with a disability will be treated as an equal member of the team just as are their peers who are not disabled, and receive reasonable accommodations.

The State High School Athletic Association should require that coaches attend an orientation and/or training specific to wheelchair track and field for student-athletes with disabilities provided through a source with demonstrated expertise in this area and level of competition.

For students competing in wheelchair racing events, they must compete using the proper equipment, this being a racing wheelchair, helmet and gloves.

The student-athlete with a disability will compete at local, regional and state meets and receive points as established under the guidelines of their State High School Athletic Association.

The State High School Athletic Association may elect to adopt a mixed heat policy or they may elect to create a disability division within their current boy/girl infrastructures in conducting competitions and in applying points.

State High School Athletic Associations are encouraged to work cooperatively with each other and professionals in this area in establishing or adopting standardized rules of competition, training and policies for the quality, continuity and growth of these opportunities

To learn more on the AAASP/GHSA Alliance and the wheelchair division, contact Ralph Swearngin at GHSA (706) 647-7473 or Bev Vaughn at AAASP (404) 294-0070. To learn more about the mixed heat policy, contact [scot@wcracing.net](mailto:scot@wcracing.net) at Wheelchair Track and Field USA.



### U of Wisc-Oshkosh 1st College to Offer adaptedSPORTS Certification

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh is the first university in the United States to become affiliated with the American Association of adaptedSPORTS™

Programs. Dr. Robert Weber has included the adaptedSPORTS certification program as part of his *Sports for Individuals with Disabilities* curriculum. During the fall semester, nine adapted physical education students earned certification in indoor wheelchair soccer. Other adaptedSPORTS certifications will be added to his curriculum during upcoming semester sessions. Weber is an authorized adaptedSPORTS trainer, having received his certification in August. AAASP is currently booking certification clinics for 2007. Call 404/294-0070 for more information.

### STAY TUNED for championship basketball in March when GPB airs the 2007 AAASP GA



Wheelchair Basketball Championship with the GHSA Boys' and Girls' Basketball Championships in the Arena at Gwinnett Center.

The championships are March 2-4. The broadcast schedule for the wheelchair basketball championship will be available at [www.adaptedsports.org](http://www.adaptedsports.org).

## GA Perimeter College Welcomes 2006 Soccer Championship



Georgia Perimeter College-Clarkston (metro Atlanta) played host on November 11

to the **11th AAASP GA Wheelchair Soccer Championships**. The Atlanta Wolfpack squeezed past the DeKalb Silver Streaks with a score of 14-12 in the Varsity championship game. The Richmond Dream Team beat the Atlanta Thundercats (8-3) for the Junior Varsity Division Championship.



Varsity Champs Atlanta Wolfpack



JV Champs Richmond Dream Team

Log on to [www.adaptedsports.org](http://www.adaptedsports.org) for detailed coverage and photos.

Official Sponsor for the 2006 AAASP GA Wheelchair Soccer Championships



## POWER PLAYS

**Making Plays** AAASP is honored to have received grants from several community leaders for the 2006-07



school year. They are: the **Count on Me Family Foundation**, founded by Atlanta Falcons' Coach

**CVS/pharmacy**

Jim Mora and his wife, Shannon Mora;

CVS/pharmacy; the Atlanta Falcons



Youth Foundation; Kraft Foods; and the Atlanta



Thrashers Community Foundation.



Funds from these grants are used to expand sports programs and coaches' training programs.

**Get in the Game** - Become a certified adaptedSPORTS coach. As part of Georgia's expansion initiative, scholarships for the adaptedSPORTS Certification Program are available for Georgia adapted physical education teachers who wants to introduce sports such as wheelchair soccer and basketball into the p.e. classroom. A limited number of scholarships are available. Call Tommie Storms at 404/294-0070.



**adaptedSPORTS Fans!** Need hats & tees to show your spirit in the New Year? Order your gear now at [www.adaptedsports-fanstore.com](http://www.adaptedsports-fanstore.com).

A special thanks to...



### SPORTS CALENDAR

Jan 13	Wheelchair Basketball Games Begin
Jan 27	Power Wheelchair Hockey Games Begin
Feb 24	JV Basketball Championship & V Semi-finals
Mar 2	Varsity Basketball Championship
Mar 24	Wheelchair Football Games Begin
Apr 28	Wheelchair Football Championship
May 3-5	GHSA Girls' Track & Field Meet
May 10-12	GHSA Boys' Track & Field Meet

## GA's DeKalb County Schools Move adaptedSPORTS to Athletics

Georgia's DeKalb County School System continues to set the pace for interscholastic athletics for students with physical disabilities by moving their adaptedSPORTS program into the Athletics Department. Athletics will continue to work with the Special Education Department (where the program began) on issues such as recruitment and transportation.

Charlie Henderson, Athletic Director for DeKalb County wants all of DeKalb's student-athletes to reap the benefits of school sports. "Our goal here is equity and access. We must provide the opportunities and services, including paying for things like uniforms and officials. These kids are athletes and sports provide the same benefits to them as any other student-athlete."

DeKalb County has a longstanding commitment to these student athletes, and has persistently provided the most equitable athletic opportunities possible at every stage. DeKalb County was the first school system in Georgia to provide a structured sports program for this population. In 1996, AAASP was founded in order to develop programs in other school systems.

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## Off the Sidelines - Into the Game

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## Getting the Job Done

*Because of sports, my son understands that talent, speed, power and glitter -- these qualities generally lose when they run up against discipline, determination, practice and teamwork. He didn't get that from watching the Pistons beat the Lakers. He got it firsthand. He learns his role and he sticks to it: ball-handling, passing to the open man. Role players and team players may not sign many autographs. They just win games. And in the workplace, they just get the job done.*

*-- Jed Butler, father of adaptedSPORTS athlete, Jordan Butler.*

## Help Level the Playing Field

Programs in adaptedSPORTS<sup>™</sup> are made possible by generous individuals who understand the value of sports participation and the need to level the playing field on behalf of student athletes with physical disabilities or visual impairments. This past year, 82% of AAASP's funds went directly to programs and program services. You, too, can assure the growth of adaptedSPORTS<sup>™</sup> programs by making a donation today. Contact Evan Pearson @ [epearson@adaptedsports.org](mailto:epearson@adaptedsports.org) or call 404/294-0856.

The American Association of adaptedSPORTS<sup>™</sup> Programs, Inc. (AAASP) is Georgia's governing body for interscholastic adapted athletics in member schools of the Georgia High School Association. AAASP and GHSA work together to open up opportunities in athletics for students with physical disabilities or visual impairments. AAASP offers a training and certification program for coaches throughout the United States. AAASP is a 501(c)(3) organization.