

Raising the Bar: Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Sport

2004 Disability in Sport Symposium

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Disability in Sport

Center for the Study of Sport in Society

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Overview

- Disability Sport: Separate and Unequal?
- Existing Sports Infrastructure
- Rationale for Inclusion
- Barriers to Inclusion
- Strategies for Inclusion

Disability Sport: Separate and Unequal?

- Sports culture routinely overlooks and neglects sports for people with disabilities
- Most people with disabilities remain on the margins of sport, most often involved with separate segregated disability sport organizations.
- One of the greatest, yet most ignored, social problems in sports

Existing Sports Infrastructure

- The existing sports infrastructure and systems primarily provide to able-bodied male and female constituents
- Few people with disabilities fit within able-bodied sports
- Does not comprehensively provide for an arena of sport for people with disabilities

Existing Sports Infrastructure

- Inclusion exists when sports institutions embrace sport for people with disabilities as an integral part of the fabric of the sporting environment

Existing Sports Infrastructure

- Community-based sports
 - Few disability sport divisions
 - Many separate opportunities
- Scholastic sports
 - No disability sport divisions
 - Few separate opportunities
- Intercollegiate athletics
 - No disability sport divisions
 - Few separate opportunities

Existing Sports Infrastructure

- Amateur sports
 - Few disability sport divisions
 - Numerous separate opportunities
- National Team and Olympic sports
 - Few disability sport divisions
 - Numerous separate opportunities
- Professional sports
 - No disability sport divisions
 - No separate opportunities

Existing Sports Infrastructure

- Sport managers
 - Minimal experience
 - Not trained or educated in disability sport
- Coaches and Officials
 - Minimal experience
 - Not trained or educated in disability sport
- Media
 - Non-existent and invisible
- Sponsors
 - Minimal commitment to strategy on disability sport

Rationale for Inclusion

- Divisioning by classification
- Sport model rather than disability model
- Legitimacy
- Human rights and equality

Rationale for Inclusion

- Inclusion is a Human Right
 - “Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to services from those involved in the organization of recreational, leisure and sporting activities.”
 - Draft Article 24, UN Disability Treaty Convention

Barriers to Inclusion

- Able-bodied sport as the norm
- Diminished value of sport for people with disabilities
- Prioritization of economic resources to able-bodied sport
- Lack of education and expertise
- Classification in disability sport

Strategies

- Sport Management approach to disability sport
- Education and Information Sharing to sports industry

Strategies

- Disability Report Card
 - Criteria for Inclusion
 - Organizational Continuum

Criteria for Inclusion

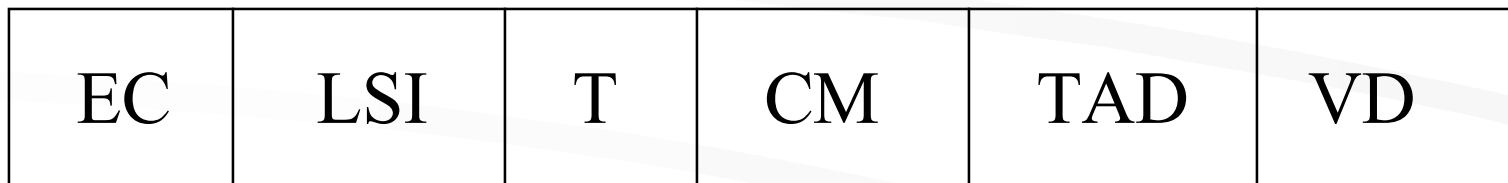
- Governance
- Media and Information Distribution
- Management
- Funding and Sponsorship
- Awareness and Education
- Events and Programs
- Awards and Recognition
- Philosophy
- Advocacy

Organizational Continuum

From Monocultural



To Multicultural



Exclusive Organization



Inclusive Organization

- **Exclusive Club (EC)**
- **Lip Service to Inclusion (LSI)**
- **Tokenism (T)**

- **Critical Mass (CM)**
- **Tolerating/Accepting
Diversity (TAD)**
- **Valuing Diversity (VD)**

Strategies

- **Human Rights, Sport and Disability Campaign**

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Raising the Bar: Panelists

- Tali Rausch, Associate Director, Oak Square YMCA
- Joshua George, Student-Athlete, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Sarah Reinertsen, Sports Broadcast Journalist
- Artemis Joukowsky, Co-Author, *Raising the Bar*