

Into the Game: Youth with Disabilities in After-School Sports

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Disability in Sport, Sport in Society

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Urban Youth Sports, Sport in Society

Outline

- Defining Disability
 - Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities
 - Rationale for Inclusion within Existing Programs
 - Case Study - Urban Youth Sports
 - Fostering an Inclusive After-School Sports System
 - Scenarios
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Defining Disability

- Physical and Sensory % 10 in Boston
 - Cognitive and Emotional % 5 in Boston
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Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities

- Integrated Settings
 - Youth with disabilities participate or compete with youth without disabilities
 - With accommodations
 - Without accommodations
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Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities

- Disability-Specific Settings
 - Youth with disabilities participate or compete against youth with similar disabilities
 - Ability appropriate
 - Similar to divisioning by gender
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Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities

- **Separate Disability-Specific Programs**
 - Programs have no affiliation to existing after-school sports programs and are only for youth with disabilities
 - Programs are affiliated but are not supported and valued by existing sport programs
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Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities

- Inclusive Disability-Specific Settings within Existing Programs
 - Existing program organizes disability-specific setting for youth with disabilities
 - Existing program is supportive and promotes involvement of youth with disabilities
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Rationale for Inclusion

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

- UYS is a program of the Center for Sport in Society.
 - An intermediary organization whose mission is to promote the health and well-being of children through physical activity.
 - 3 UYS Health Coordinators located at health centers around the city.
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The Boston Sports Scene

- *Play Across Boston* (2000) finds the following:
 - Boston youth have 1/3 the opportunities available to suburban youth.
 - Boys participate twice as often as girls.
 - White youth are overrepresented in sport, while black and hispanic youth are underrepresented.
 - Facilities vary by neighborhood.
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Barriers Facing YSO's

- Funding
 - Insurance, equipment, collecting fees
 - Volunteers
 - Working parents, CORI/SORI
 - Facilities
 - Competition for permits
 - Safety
 - Safety of recreational spaces, background on volunteers
 - Sustainability
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Successes

- Tenacity
 - Regan Baseball
 - Roberto Clemente
 - MetroLacrosse
 - CityKicks
 - New England SCORES
 - Squash Busters
 - G-ROW
 - Red Auerbach Double Dutch
 - Mattapan Pop Warner
 - Roxbury YMCA Soccer and Basketball
 - JP Youth Soccer
 - South End Little League
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Working with Disability

- Current Status
 - Few youth with disabilities in integrated settings
 - Few disability-specific programs within existing programs
 - Numerous separate disability-specific programs
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Working with Disability

- Challenges and Barriers:
 - Inexperience and lack of awareness
 - Recruiting
 - Not on radar
 - Infrequency
 - Perceived as “separate” and “other” based on social and cultural norms
 - Teasing and Stereotypes
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Working with Disability

- Challenges and Barriers (cont'd)
 - Staffing/Training
 - Funding
 - Planning
 - Limited numbers
 - Various disability types
 - Recruiting
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Inclusive After-School Sports System

- Young people with a disability have a RIGHT to sport
 - Existing sports programs must identify youth with disabilities as key constituency
 - Existing sports programs must deliver equitable services and opportunities to youth with and without disabilities
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Inclusive After-School Sports System

- Disability in Sport Education and Awareness Training
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Scenario One

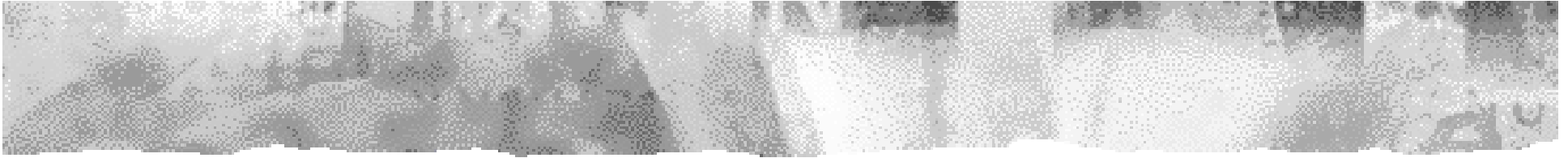
- You are the coordinator of a well-organized, fully staffed swim program. The father of Amy, an 8 year old girl, approaches you and tells you his daughter is an excellent swimmer, is blind, and is interested in joining the team. You watch her swim and see that she has quite a bit of potential. What do you do for Amy and other youth with disabilities in the future?
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Scenario Two

- You are the coach of a basketball team. One player, Sekwon, had his arm amputated above the elbow when he was a baby. Sekwon is a very good player, but his peers without disabilities rarely pass him the ball. What can you do for Sekwon, and other youth with disabilities in the future?
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Scenario Three

- You are the Director of an inner city soccer league. You notice that three of the young athletes without disabilities have a sibling with a disability, yet these siblings only watch from the sideline. One sibling has down syndrome, one is ambulatory with cerebral palsy, and the third is deaf. What can you do for the three siblings and other youth with disabilities in the future?
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Sidelined: Youth with Disabilities and After-School Sports

Questions?