

Respecting Disability in Sports: A Life Skill



Eli A. Wolff

Disability in Sport Program

**Center for the Study of Sport in
Society**

Overview



- Disability in Sport Program
- Disability in Sports
 - Integrated Settings
 - Disability Specific Settings
- The Problem
- Embracing Disability in Sports
- Suggested Strategies

Disability in Sport Program



- Research

- Education

- Advocacy

Disability in Sports



■ Integrated Settings

- Youth with disabilities participate or compete with youth without disabilities
 - I Without accommodations
 - I With accommodations

Disability in Sports



■ Disability-Specific Settings

- Youth with disabilities participate or compete against youth with similar disabilities
 - I Ability appropriate
 - I Similar to divisioning by gender

The Problem



- Lack of respect for athletic capabilities and potential of youth with disabilities
- Struggles faced by youth with disabilities in integrated settings
- Lack of disability-specific opportunities for youth with disabilities
- The most overlooked social problem in sports

Embracing Disability in Sports

■ A Life Skill for Youth Without Disabilities

- Awareness to disability issues
- Supporting teammates with disabilities in integrated settings
- Understanding similarities between disability-specific sports and girls' sports
- Recognizing ability difference in sports as simply different and not "worse than"
- Understanding the spectrum of difference and diversity in sport and society

Embracing Disability in Sports



- A Life Skill for All People without Disabilities
 - Including people with disabilities as integral to the sports culture
 - Encouraging and organizing sports opportunities for people with disabilities
 - Advocating and taking responsibility for people with disabilities in sports

Suggested Strategies



- **Disability Activities**
 - Sitting Volleyball
 - Blind-Folded Tandem Running
- **Organizing Sports Opportunities**
 - Integrated or Disability-Specific
- **Meeting Olympic Athletes with a Disability**

Suggested Strategies



- The Disability in Sport Program is available to assist and support you!

Respecting Disability in Sports: A Life Skill



Eli A. Wolff

Disability in Sport Program

**Center for the Study of Sport in
Society**