

**The Inclusion of the Paralympics in the
Olympic and Amateur Sports Act: Legal and
Policy Implications for Integration of Athletes
With Disabilities into the United States
Olympic Committee**

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I. Introduction

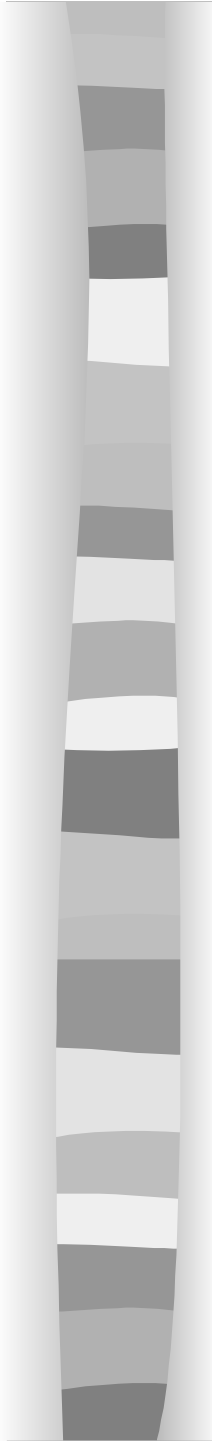
A. Recent passage of the Stevens Amendments changed the Amateur Sports Act to the Olympic and Amateur Sports Act

**B. Significant change in terms of sport for people with disabilities->
The word “Paralympic” now appears wherever the words “Olympic” and “Pan American” appear**



C. Purpose of this presentation

- 1. Examine how a change in the law (Stevens Amendments) may effect amateur sport governance structures**
- 2. The law itself provides no specific guidelines for implementation**



3. One could argue this is not just about structure, but about philosophy as well

a. what is the “place” of elite disabled sport within the governance structures of amateur sport?



II. Effects on governing bodies

A. What structures are effected?

1. USOC

2. National Governing Bodies

US Swimming

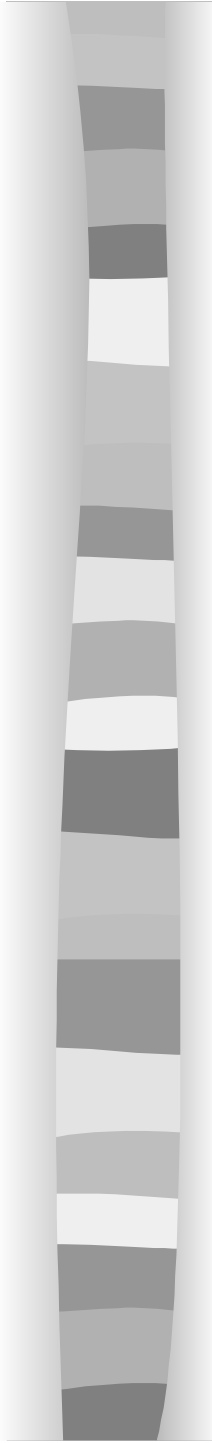
US Soccer

US Ski & Snowboard

US Track & Field

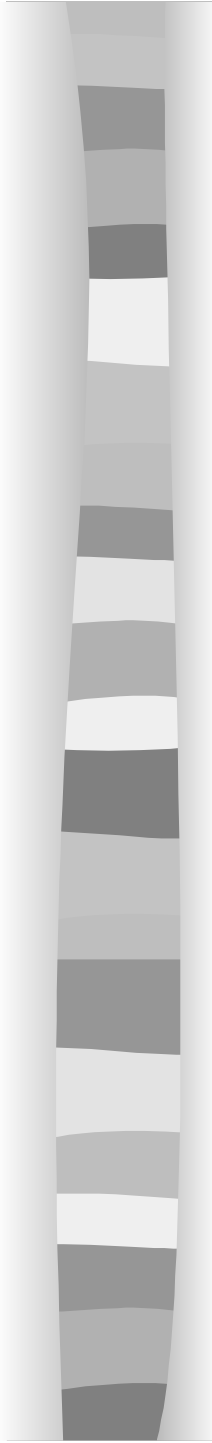
USA Basketball

etc



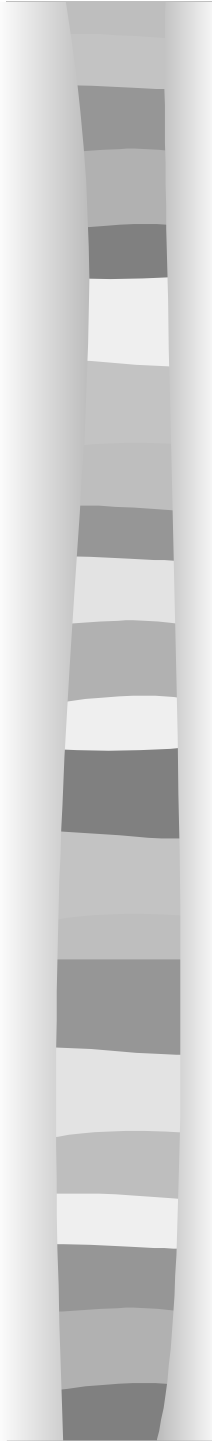
3. USOC recognized Disabled Sports Organizations (DSOs) which supply athletes to the Paralympic Games

- a) Disabled Sports USA (DSUSA),**
- b) Dwarf Athletic Association of America (DAAA),**
- c) United States Blind Athletes Association (USABA),**
- d) United States Cerebral Palsy Athletic Association (USCPAA),**
- e) Wheelchair Sports USA (WSUSA).**



4. Note: There are two other USOC recognized DSOs which do not supply athletes to the Paralympic Games

- a) Special Olympics, Inc. (SOI),**
- b) United States Deaf Sports Federation (USDSF)**



5. Athletes who are deaf and athletes with cognitive disabilities do not participate in the Paralympic Games. They have their own competitions.

6. IMPORTANT

- > DSOs are organized and named by DISABILITY**
- > NGBs are organized and named by SPORT**

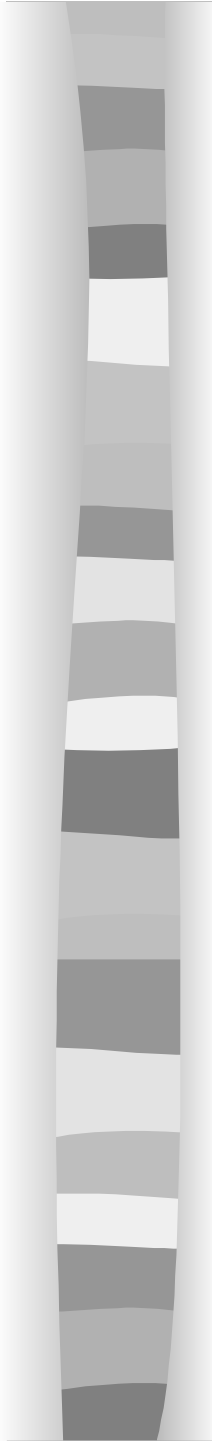


III. Research in this area

A. In terms of research, the examination of management issues in sport for people with disabilities is a new area for sport management scholars

B. Current research on management issues is limited

- 1. Marketing (Hums & Fay)**
- 2. Women in management (Hums & Moorman; Olenik)**
- 3. Governance (Wolff)**



IV. The governance of amateur sport in the United States

A. Original Amateur Sports Act

B. New Olympic and Amateur Sports Act



V. Amateur Sports Act



VI. Stevens Amendments



VII. Reactions to the Stevens Amendments

A. Who must respond

- 1. USOC**
- 2. Disabled Sports Organizations**
- 3. National Governing Bodies**



B. The USOC

- 1. Vertical Integration Task Force**
- 2. Suggested models**
 - a. NGB Assimilation/USOC Mandated Approach**
 - b. Consolidation approach**



C. The Disabled Sports Organizations

- 1. Consensus Vertical Integration Model**

- 2. Do they put themselves out of business?**



D. The National Governing Bodies

- 1. US Ski and Snowboard**
- 2. US Swimming**
- 3. US Soccer**



VIII. Policy considerations

A. Legal

- 1. The “out clause”**
- 2. Will athletes have a private right of action under the law?**
- 3. Mark Shepherd case**



B. Economic

- 1. funding for the suggested models**
- 2. current figures**
- 3. Sagamore and Associates work**



C. Ethical

- 1. Defining legitimate forms of sport**
 - a. rules**
 - b. classification**
- 2. Organization by “sport” or by “disability”**
- 3. The purpose of elite sport for people with disabilities**



D. Political

- 1. Disability rights organizations**
- 2. Identity of athletes with disabilities within the different models**
- 3. Sports with no corresponding NGB**



IX. Concluding thoughts

A. This is an excellent example a complex governance issue resulting from a change in the law

B. The passage of legislation has been a critical change factor in the assimilation of minority groups into mainstream sport organizations in the past

C. Could the Olympic and Amateur Sports Act be the Title IX of sport for people with disabilities?