



Sport Without Disability: Understanding the Exclusion Of Athletes With a Disability

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Center for the Study of Sport in Society**



Outline

Divisioning in sport

What is disability sport?

Rationale for exclusion

What is inclusion within sport?

Rationale for inclusion

Strategies to facilitate inclusion

Questions?



Divisioning

General divisions

- gender, age, weight class, etc.

Divisioning with respect to the body

- able-bodied
 - male, female
- disabled
 - male, female
 - classification- blind, amputee, wheelchair, etc.



What is disability sport?

- competition specifically for people with disabilities (DePauw & Gavron, 1995)**
- similar to women's sport with respect to:**
 - funding**
 - media coverage**
 - subject to constant "comparison"**
 - notion of "different body"**



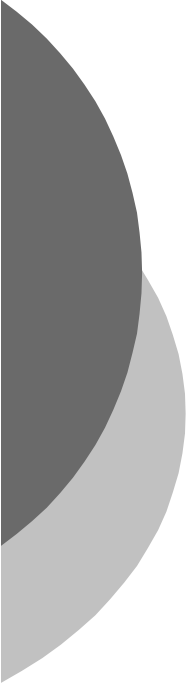
Rationale for exclusion

- numerous classifications**
- limited numbers of people with disabilities in each classification**
- lack of education and awareness**
- presence of stereotypes, stigma, and fear**
- limited financial resources and increased costs**
- no consensus among disability sport organizations**
- notion of “incomplete body”**



What is inclusion within sport?

- disability sport opportunities supported by “able-bodied” sport organizations**
- criteria for inclusion**
- examples of inclusion**



Criteria for Inclusion (Wolff, Hums, & Fay, 2000)

- **Funding/Sponsorship**
- **Media/Information distribution**
- **Awards/Recognition**
- **Governance**
- **Philosophy**
- **Awareness/Education**
- **Events/Programs**
- **Advocacy**
- **Management**



Examples of inclusion

- **Boston Marathon**
- **Commonwealth Games**
- **United States Ski & Snowboard Association**
- **International Tennis Federation**
- **Norwegian Olympic Committee**



Rationale for inclusion

- **divisioning in sport**
- **divisioning by body**
- **sport model rather than disability model**
- **legitimacy**
- **equality**
- **human rights**



Rationale for inclusion - Human Rights

Human Rights of People with Disabilities in Sports and Recreation

(Drafted by Disability in Sport Initiative, Center for the Study of Sport in Society for the United Nations Ad-Hoc Committee on Human Rights and Disability)

“People with disabilities have fundamental human rights with respect to sports and recreation. These human rights must not be overlooked”



Strategies to facilitate inclusion

- Disability Report Card**
- Education and information sharing with sport organizations**
- Addressing disability sport using the criteria**
- Sport marketing approach to disability sport**



Questions?

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