

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What if my child doesn't use a wheelchair?

A: Most people are surprised to learn that many of the kids involved in disabled sports don't use wheelchairs except to play Paralympic sports. Non-wheelchair users only use a wheelchair to allow them to play a sport in which they would otherwise be unable to participate. It does not teach dependence or promote use of wheelchairs; it levels the playing field (similar to specialized running shoes do for track runners) and promotes teamwork, fitness, and sportsmanship as do all sports.

Q: What if we don't have any of the equipment?

A: The equipment necessary for participation in wheelchair basketball and power soccer is provided, with the exception of power chairs, as part of the program.

Q: How much does this cost?

A: For the 2011-12 school year there is no cost associated with the disabled sports program.

Q: Can I earn PE Credit from this program?

A: YES! Participation in the Paralympic Sport program can earn alternative PE Credit. You must apply for "credit by choice" with your curriculum principal before the season begins.

Learn more about Paralympic sports competitive and introductory programs:

www.challengealaska.org

Click on Sports and Rec., then
Physical Disabilities

Register by calling
Jeff Dick, 344-7270.



Paralympic Sport programs are made possible through a partnership with Paralympic Sport Alaska, a program of Challenge Alaska, and the Anchorage School District.



2011-2012 Paralympic Sports for Students with and without Physical Disabilities



ALASKA

Disabled Sports

Disabled Sports are sports played by people with disabilities, most of which are based on traditional sports that have been modified to meet the needs of persons with a disability. Not all disabled sports are modified; several sports have been specifically created for persons with disabilities and have no equivalent in able-bodied sports. This program has been developed using the Paralympic model for competition.

Disabled Sports & Higher Education:

There are over 13 universities offering opportunities and scholarships in disabled sports across the country. This represents yet another bridge to similar opportunities that are available to non-disabled students.

The Paralympic Model:

This model focuses on sports development from the local competitive level all the way to the internationally elite. This program offers skills comparable to those an able-bodied athlete would receive from their school-based basketball and soccer teams. While the ultimate goal of each athlete is set personally, this model allows them to access the training and development to pursue their goals into college, regional, national, and international competition if that is their desired goal.

2011-12 Paralympic Sport Opportunities

Power Soccer

Who: Middle and high school students

When: 5-7 p.m., Mon.-Thurs., March 19, 2012-April 19, 2012

Where: Hanshew Middle School Gym

Power soccer is designed and developed for power wheelchair users. Power Soccer combines the skill of the wheelchair user with the speed and power of the chair to participate in an extremely challenging game similar to soccer. The game is played in a gymnasium on a regulation basketball court.

Power Soccer is a non-contact sport and uses “guards” that temporarily attach to the front of the power chair. These guards allow players to “kick” and “handle” the ball in much the same way traditional soccer players do. Soccer guards will be provided for all team members.



Wheelchair Basketball

Who: Middle and high school students

When: 5-7 p.m., Mon.-Thurs., September 12, 2011-October 13, 2011

Where: Central Middle School Gym

This sport shares most of the major rules and scoring of basketball, and maintains a 10-foot basketball hoop and standard basketball court. The exceptions are rules which have been modified with consideration for the manual wheelchair.