



About

- AAASP provides an organizational structure and leadership to enable and facilitate statewide competition in school-based adapted sports.
- Provides shared services to enable more cost effective, high quality adapted sports programming for schools, districts and state high school associations.
- Positively influences total student development through co-development and support of adapted sports programs.
- Promotes interscholastic adapted sports with state and national policy makers.

www.adaptedsports.org



Vision

AAASP envisions a society where all children with physical disabilities can experience the rewards and satisfaction of competitive school-based sports.

Mission

AAASP's mission is to develop and support a standardized structure for school-based athletic competition to improve the well being of students with physical disabilities.

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American Association of
adaptedSPORTS[®]
PROGRAMS



The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) provides services to Local Education Agencies, State High School Associations and State Departments of Education in extracurricular adapted athletics for physically disabled children attending grades 1-12 to improve their well-being while positively influencing total student development.

Off the Sidelines...Into the Game



Team sports are offered during the school year with wheelchair team handball provided in the fall season, wheelchair basketball during the winter season and wheelchair football during the spring season. All students participate in a wheelchair, whether they use one on a daily basis or not. This helps level the playing field and engages more students with physical disabilities in athletics. Players learn basic fundamental sports skills in the fall that they build upon and translate to other sports throughout the school year.

The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) and our partners are committed to creating and expanding opportunities in adapted athletics for school children with physical disabilities to increase their physical activity level, enhance self-esteem, form lasting friendships and experience school-based sports in a similar manner as their non-disabled peers.

We undertake this mission with knowledge that early efforts have long ranging implications. Given that activity levels in adulthood are usually lower than during childhood, sport and physical activity patterns established during childhood form a foundation for lifelong physical activity and subsequent health and contribute to an overall increase in quality of life (Longmuir & Barr-Or, 2000; Healthy People 2010).

Children with physical disabilities are often not encouraged to lead active lives and in fact tend to lead sedentary lives with greater health problems and have more physical activity barriers (Longmuir & Bar-Or, 2000, Rimmer, Riley, Wang & Rauworth, 2005).

AAASP and our partners are working to reverse this trend because students with disabilities benefit from the positive social and health benefits of participation in physical activity and sports. <http://www.gao.gov/Products/GAO-10-519>



AAASP works with partnering State High School Associations to provide opportunities for students with physical disabilities to participate in wheelchair track and field events in regular and post season competition.

Students who take part are included on their high school track and field teams and will have the opportunity to experience the benefits of high school sport competition just as their non-disabled peers do.

Parents and teachers agree that these programs have been life changing events in their children's lives and that they now feel like an athlete instead of a spectator.