American Association of Adapted Sports Programs Receives Grant from the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation to Expand Adapted Sports in Georgia

Grant will help establish new adapted sports teams in metro Atlanta, creating expanded opportunities for student-athletes with physical and other qualifying disabilities

ATLANTA – October 8, 2026 – American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) received a $250,000 grant from the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, in partnership with the Atlanta Falcons, to support the growth of adapted athletics in Georgia. The grant will help AAASP establish new adapted sports teams in four metro Atlanta counties, expanding opportunities for students with physical and other qualifying disabilities to participate in competitive education-based athletics, and growing the AAASP AdaptED Sports League by 2028.

As a legacy of the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta, AAASP has provided adapted sports opportunities in Georgia for more than 30 years. Through its partnership with the Georgia High School Association (GHSA), AAASP provides the infrastructure, standards, training and competitive opportunities necessary for student athletes with physical and other qualifying disabilities to participate in education-based athletics, including wheelchair handball, wheelchair football, wheelchair basketball and adapted track and field. The investment from the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation (AMBFF) will help bring adapted athletics to more schools and communities, creating opportunities for additional student-athletes to experience the teamwork, competition, confidence and belonging that come from participating in sports.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation for this transformative investment in the future of AdaptED Sports in Georgia," said Dr. Jenny Millward, Executive Director of AAASP. "This grant will allow us to reach more students who deserve the opportunity to compete, represent their schools and experience the lifelong benefits of being part of a team. Together, we are moving more students off the sidelines and into the game."

"Expanding access to youth sports is about more than creating new opportunities to compete — it's about ensuring more young people feel seen, supported and included through the power of school-based athletics," said Managing Director of Founder Initiatives for AMBFF, Margaret Connelly. "This grant reflects our commitment to advancing positive youth development by helping remove barriers to participation, strengthening the adapted sports infrastructure and creating sustainable pathways for student-athletes with qualifying disabilities across metro Atlanta."

With support from these grants, AAASP will work with school districts and community partners to develop new teams, provide coach and official training, supply sports chairs and other equipment, as well as establish competitive schedules and ensure schools have the resources necessary to build sustainable adapted sports programs.

About the American Association of Adapted Sports Programs

The **American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP)** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing students with physical and other qualifying disabilities the opportunity to participate in competitive education-based athletics. Founded in Georgia following the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta, AAASP has developed a comprehensive model for adapted sports that includes standardized rules, seasons, training, and competition. Through its partnership with the Georgia High School Association (GHSA), AAASP provides opportunities for student-athletes across Georgia to participate in adapted sports alongside their peers. For more information, visit **www.adaptedsports.org** or join our conversations on Facebook, Instagram or X at: @AdaptedSports.

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Contacts:
Terri Grunduski, Adapted Sports – tgrunduski@adaptedsports.org 404-226-7497