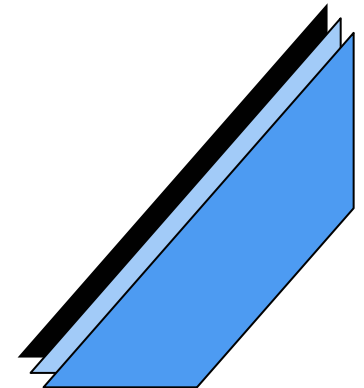


*Integrating Athletes with Disabilities:*

*Applications at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers*

*26 July 2005*

*Patrice Milkovich, US Olympic Committee*



Integrating Athletes with Disabilities:  
Applications at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers

*The **Mission** of the **United States Olympic Committee** is to support **United States Olympic and Paralympic athletes** in achieving **sustained competitive excellence** and **preserve the Olympic ideals**, and thereby **inspire all Americans**.*



## Integrating Athletes with Disabilities: Applications at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers

***U.S. Paralympics***, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee formed in 2001, is ***dedicated to becoming the world leader in the Paralympic sports movement, and promoting excellence in the lives of persons with physical disabilities.***



Integrating Athletes with Disabilities:  
Applications at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers

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1. *coordinates the preparation and selection of athletes to U.S. Paralympic Teams in conjunction with pertinent National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and other partner organizations.*



Integrating Athletes with Disabilities:  
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2. *works with national and locally-focused sport organizations that offer Paralympic programs to children and other developing athletes.*
3. *through these efforts, USPC promotes Olympic ideals throughout the American population, especially among those Americans who have physical disabilities.*



## ***Leveling the Playing Field via US Federal Legislation:***

- US defines **disability** as a **physical** or **mental impairment** that substantially limits one or more of a person's major life activities.



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- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 1990 – governs education of students with disabilities in public schools
- The **Americans with Disabilities Act** (ADA) of 1990 – comprehensive law banning discrimination against persons with disabilities, specifically addresses “places of exercise”; ADA goes farther than any of the preceding laws.



Integrating Athletes with Disabilities:  
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*Servicing Disabled Athlete Programs  
at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers*

FACILITY and PERSONNEL FACTORS



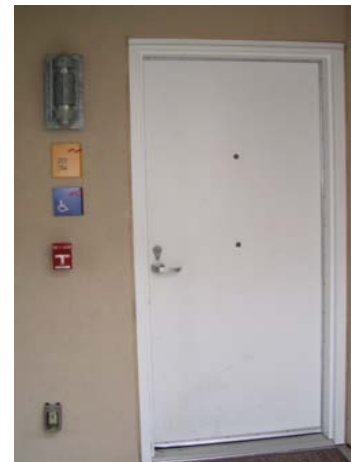
# Integrating Athletes with Disabilities: Applications at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers

- **FACILITY FACTORS**

- *Site Design with an emphasis on **ACCESSIBILITY***



- *Site Design that incorporates **PREDICTABILITY***  
*(ie., Informational and Directional Signage – color, font style and size, placement, quantity)*



# Integrating Athletes with Disabilities: Applications at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers



- ***PERSONNEL FACTORS***

- \* *Professional and Skill-related Sensitivity*
- \* *Personal and Social-related Sensitivity*



## Integrating Athletes with Disabilities: Applications at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers

- ***USOTCs Support Services and Functions for Disabled Athlete Programs:***

1. *PROGRAM MANAGEMENT*
2. *TRANSPORTATION*
3. *HOUSING*
4. *DINING / FOOD SERVICE*
5. *SPORT VENUES*



Integrating Athletes with Disabilities:  
Applications at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers

## ***Program Management Functions***

- *Pre-program Communication and Planning*
  - ✓ *Work closely with NGB and program administrator to coordinate special needs in transportation, housing, dining and sport operations.*
  - ✓ *Call upon expertise of the disabled sports organization and their personnel to handle logistics.*



## ***Program Management Functions***

- *Notify Facility Management of upcoming disabled athlete programs so they may:*





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  - ✓ **Adjust climate control in dormitories/sport venues to accommodate users**



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  - ✓ **Schedule special services as necessary (i.e., collection and removal of biomedical waste; provide areas to support service dogs, etc.)**



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  - ✓ **Plan for post-program maintenance to facilities (damages typically caused by wheelchairs)**



## ***Program Management Functions***

- *Develop and implement a “Community Assistance Program” for Disabled Athletes:*



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  - ✓ *Procure emergency repair service providers for prostheses*
  - ✓ **Procure emergency medical support for Disabled Athletes and their service animals if necessary**



## ***Program Management Functions***

- *Supplement operations schedule with extra staff and/or volunteers to assist with registration, housing assignments, dining hall support, etc.*
- *Program After-Action ....*

*”How can we improve and better service our athletes?”*



# Integrating Athletes with Disabilities: Applications at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers

## ***Transportation Functions***

- **Accessibility to transportation will be determined by athlete's disability (i.e., wheelchairs will require vehicle with lift or ability of athlete to perform transfer into vehicle)**
- **Size of program and type of disability will determine fleet size and supporting resources required (number of drivers and equipment handlers)**
- **Assistance in transporting athlete's luggage and specific support equipment from venue to vehicle to venue.**
- **Often times Transportation is the biggest logistical issue in supporting disabled athlete programs.**



Integrating Athletes with Disabilities:  
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## ***Housing Functions***

- *Scheduling according to accessibility (1<sup>st</sup> floor, elevators, etc?)*
- *Occupancy rates lower for Disabled Athlete programs – house less athletes per room based upon requirement of space to support wheelchairs, service animals, extra equipment, etc.*
- *Scope of housekeeping and custodial services – increase frequency of service, prepare to handle biomedical wastes, etc.*
- *Assure enhanced Fire/Life Safety systems are operable.*



Integrating Athletes with Disabilities:  
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## ***Dining & Food Service Functions***

- *Accessibility adjustments to service and seating areas to accommodate various disabilities (remove chairs at tables for wheelchair access, provide step-stools for dwarfs, audio assistance for menu selection by blind athletes, etc)*
- *Ratio of disabled athletes to required support staff is 5:1 (especially important if OTC occupancy is 65% or greater)*
- *Work with NGB/program administrator and Sports Nutrition personnel to accommodate special dietary needs*



# Integrating Athletes with Disabilities: Applications at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers

## ***Sports Venue Functions***

- *Accessibility – remove obstacles*
  - ✓ **To Facility (ramps, elevators)**
  - ✓ **To Training Venue (court, pool, track, etc)**
  - ✓ **To Support Services (locker rooms, medical clinic, etc)**
- *Maintenance*
  - ✓ **Temperature control for quadriplegics**
  - ✓ **Court/floor maintenance from sport wheelchairs**
- *Assistance by staff as needed*





# Integrating Athletes with Disabilities: Applications at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers

