Reasonable Accommodations & Inclusion for Students with Disabilities

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OCR Letter

• Clarifies when and how schools must include students with disabilities in mainstream athletic programs

• Defines what true equal treatment of student athletes with disabilities means

• Encourages and provides a road map for schools to create alternative (adapted) programs for students with disabilities

National Webinar for Schools on OCR Guidelines
Reasonable/Inclusive/Equitable

Focus on educational outcomes
Teams are formed by district or districts
Standardized seasons/rules/inclusive policies
One sport per season
Adapted sports coaches/game officials
State Championships
AAASP/GHSA Alliance

Participation rate of over 4000 students

Held over 1500 interscholastic adapted sports competitions

82% graduation rate
Students Served Through Adapted Sports

Orthopedic Impairments
• caused by a congenital anomaly, impairments caused by disease, or acquired through accident or injury

Traumatic Brain Injury

Sensory Impairments
WHEELCHAIR TEAM HANDBALL

Fall Sport

Teams are co-ed

All players utilize a wheelchair (manual or power)

Players can use their own chair

JV and Varsity Divisions

Teams compete against other school district teams - 12 week season
WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

Winter Sport

Teams are co-ed

All players utilize a wheelchair (manual)

Players can use their own chair

JV and Varsity Divisions

Teams compete against other school district teams - 12 week season
WHEELCHAIR FOOTBALL

Spring Sport

Teams are co-ed

All players utilize a wheelchair (manual or power)

Players can use their own chair

JV and Varsity Divisions

Teams compete against other school district teams - eight week season
Advanced skills

Strategy
Chair handing
Power chair receivers
Accommodations
Wheelchair Track & Field

Students included on HS team

WC events added to meet schedules

Top 8 boys & girls advance to state in each event

WC Division
Wheelchair Basketball State Champs

Wheelchair basketball varsity championship included in the GHSA boys and girls finals

WC game televised on all Georgia Public Broadcast stations
Disabilities Served

Achondroplasia
Amputee
Arthrogryposis
Avascular Necrosis
Birth Defect (Deformity of Hand)
Brachial Plexus Palsy
Cerebella Digenesis
Cerebral Palsy
Congenital Hypotonia
Diplegia
Dystonia
Erb’s Palsy
Femoral Focal Deficiency
Femoral Hypoplasia
Fibromuscular Dysplasia (FMD)
Hearing Impaired
Larsen’s Syndrome
Leigh’s Disease
McCunne Albright Syndrome
Mitochondrial Disease
Multiple Sclerosis
Muscular Dystrophy
Osteogenesis Imperfecta
PFFD (Proximal)
Progressive Neurological Disorder
Severe Amblyopia
Severe Scoliosis
Shaken Baby Syndrome
Spastic Diplegia
Spastic Paralysis
Spina Bifida
Spinal Cord Injured
Spinal Muscular Atrophy
Stroke
Transverse Myelitis
Traumatic Brain Injury
Vertigo/Balance Issues
Visual Motor Integration Impairment
Visually Impaired

Source: Data collected by AAASP from participating school districts 2011-2012
Wheelchair Basketball
Benefits

The top benefits parents identified were:

• Opportunity to play sports that the kids would otherwise never have
• The ability to work hard, participate in a group, set goals, & excel in sports
• Increased motivation to get good grades, improvement in academics
• Respect and consideration for others
• Active engagement and friendship with other students, mentors, & coaches
Travis and his Dad
Share life changing effect of program
How we can help

• Work with your Board of Control to identify the need, operational direction & plan
• Provide educational training for staff
• Identify strategies for potential funding
• Assist with compliance issues and advocates