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## People with a disability in sport: an introduction

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# People with a Disability in Sport: An Introduction

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Disability in Sport

Center for the Study of Sport in Society



# Overview

- Introduction
- Opportunities for Athletes with a Disability
  - Able-bodied Sport
  - Disability Sport
- Disability in Sport Program
- Activity

# Able-bodied Sport

- Casey Martin Video

# Able-bodied Sport

- Traditional sport
- Mainstream sport
- Non-Disabled sport

# Able-bodied Sport

- Athletes with various disabilities take part in able-bodied sport
  - “Invisible” disabilities - mental illness, learning disabilities, cancer survivors, HIV positive, etc.
  - With and without accommodations - Casey Martin and Jim Abbott
- Educational inclusion
  - Jake Porter
- People with disabilities in management positions

# Able-bodied Sport

- Factors Influencing Inclusion
  - Age level
  - Accommodation needs
  - Level of competition

# Able-bodied Sport

- Challenges to Inclusion
  - Awareness and education
  - Stigma and stereotypes



# To think about....

- If a woman qualifies into men's sports, there are still women's sports
- If a person with a disability qualifies into able-bodied sports, there are still disability sports

# Disability Sport

- Craig Blanchett Video

# Disability Sport

- What is disability sport?
  - Competition specifically for people with disabilities (DePauw & Gavron 1995)

# Disability Sport

- Why is there disability sport?
  - Categorization in sport by body type
    - Male/Female
    - Weight
    - Able-bodied sport/Disability sport

# Disability Sport

- Most athletes with disabilities compete/participate in separate disability sport events organized by separate disability sport organizations:
  - Paralympic Games
  - Deaflympics
  - Special Olympics
  - Disability Sport Organizations

# Disability Sport

- Paralympic Video

# Disability Sport

- Disability sport programs and services delivered by able-bodied sports organizations
  - Boston Marathon
  - International Tennis Federation
  - Commonwealth Games
  - US Ski & Snowboard Association
  - Norwegian Olympic Committee
- Managers to oversee disability sport
  - Need for more sport management professionals

# Disability Sport

- **Criteria for Inclusion (Wolff, Hums, Fay, 2000)**
  - **Funding/Sponsorship**
  - **Media/Information distribution**
  - **Awards/Recognition**
  - **Governance**
  - **Philosophy**
  - **Awareness/Education**
  - **Events/Programs**
  - **Advocacy**
  - **Management**



# Disability Sport

- Challenges to inclusion of disability sport programming as part of able-bodied sports organizations
  - numerous disability classifications
  - limited numbers of people in each classification
  - limited financial resources and budget prioritization
  - lack of education and awareness
  - lack of expertise
  - stereotypes, stigma, and fear
  - notion of “different” and “incomplete” body

# Convergence

- Some athletes with disabilities participate in both able-bodied and disability sport
  - Parallels to Anika Sorenstam and Michelle Wie
- Some able-bodied athletes participate in disability sport
  - Wheelchair Basketball League in Canada
  - Special Olympics Unified Sports

# Values

- Disabled athletes in Able-bodied Sport are often viewed as “better” than Disability Sport athletes
- Women’s Sport similar to Disability Sport
  - Funding
  - Media coverage
  - Comparisons

# Disability in Sport Program

- Research
- Education
- Advocacy
- Programming

# Disability in Sport Program

- Research
  - Sport Management Perspective
    - Conferences
      - 2001 NASSM Disability Sport Symposium
      - 2002 Sport for All IOC Conference
      - 2003 VISTA IPC Conference
      - 2004 SRLA Conference
    - Publications
      - 2002 ICSSPE Bulletin
      - 2003 JSSI Article
      - 2004 Governance Book Chapter
      - 2004 Disability and Sport Book Chapter

# Disability in Sport Program

- Research
  - Assessment of Sport Organizations
  - Criteria for Inclusion
  - Disability Report Card
    - Data gathering

# Disability in Sport Program

- Education and Advocacy
  - Symposium
  - Advising and Consulting
  - Training
  - Disability Report Card
    - Resource

# Disability in Sport Program

- Education and Advocacy
  - United Nations Human Rights and Disability Initiative
    - Sport as a vehicle for inclusion



# Disability in Sport

- Programming
  - Outcomes
    - 2002 Best Athlete with a Disability ESPY
    - Increase Sports Media Coverage of 2002 Salt Lake Paralympic Games
    - 2003 MLS Disability Soccer All-Star Game Exhibition Match
    - 2003 Student-Athlete Disability Advisory Group to the NCAA

# Activity

- Design a Nike Advertisement Using Athletes with a Disability

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