MISSION
Adaptive Sports USA empowers individuals with a disability through access to competitive sport(s) opportunities.

VISION
We use Adaptive Sports — recreational and competitive sport for youth and adults — as the nucleus of our effort to provide an active lifestyle for individuals with a disability. Our core offerings empower athletes to learn, compete, and grow.

With education, coaching expertise, and competition, we support athletes through all stages of development. Our active chapters and members and our close collaboration with other adaptive organizations ensure an all-inclusive voice as we focus on improving the future sports landscape for athletes with a disability.
ADAPTIVE SPORTS USA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit adaptive sports organization. Since 1956, the organization has been a leader in promoting active, healthy lifestyles through recreational and competitive sport for individuals with a physical disability. Founded as the National Wheelchair Athletic Association, the initial impetus to organize grew out of the interests of athletes with a disability, many of whom were veterans of World War II. It has progressed to serving as a comprehensive competitive sports organization for all individuals with a physical disability and/or visual impairment.
EMPOWERING ATHLETES SINCE 1965.
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

OVERVIEW
Individual members of Adaptive Sports USA consist of athletes, coaches, official, classifiers, Board members, and supporters of adaptive sports.

Members have access to the Adaptive Sports USA Junior Nationals, the ability to set up an Athlete Development Fund, the opportunity to be selected to Team USA to compete in an IWAS competition, and more.

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT FUND
Individual and Chapter members have the ability to raise funds to support their athletic pursuits via tax deductible donations through Adaptive Sports USA. Members in good standing have the opportunity to apply for an Athlete Development Fund (ADF) account, which is maintained by Adaptive Sports USA. The ADF account is a reimbursement account that pays out on a monthly basis expenses incurred by an athlete or team upon submittal of receipts and the ADF Reimbursement Request form.

“Do the best you can with what you have.” Garrison Hayes, Adaptive Sports USA athlete.
There are three RPOs within Adaptive Sports USA: Western, Central, and Eastern. Within each region, an RPO assists with the development of programs and competitions.

An RPO representative is in place in each region to offer support to individual and chapter members, as well as, be a resource to the general public. Areas of assistance include, but are not limited to, locating resources, making connections, brainstorming ideas on program and event management, making referrals, and providing networking opportunities.
Adaptive Sports USA sanctions over twenty events annually, which vary in level and scope. Sanctioning approves the holding of a competitive multi-disability, multi-sport and/or single sport event in the United States. Sports include a minimum of archery, powerlifting, shooting, swimming, table tennis, and/or track and field. The sanction represents an event’s commitment to following national and international rules and regulations for each of the individual sports contested and to provide a safe environment for participants and spectators.

Adaptive Sports USA works alongside our nationwide network of chapter members to promote our sanctioned events for youth and adults, including disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces. These events serve over 1,000 athletes with a physical disability and/or visual impairment annually and expose the broader community to the opportunities provided to these athletes through sport.

For athletes aspiring to advance along the athlete pipeline, they serve as qualifiers and training events for national competitions such as the Adaptive Sports USA Junior Nationals and U.S. Paralympics National Championships, the National Veteran Wheelchair Games, and the Warrior Games.
JUNIOR NATIONALS

The Adaptive Sports USA Junior Nationals began in the United States in 1984 with three sanctioned events for wheelchair athletes and is now the largest longstanding annual U.S. multi-sport event for juniors with a physical disability and/or visual impairment. It is contested in a different city in July. Junior Nationals is an avenue for young athletes to showcase their abilities through sport. The event is a platform to promote physical activity and independence. Athletes often experience heightened socialization, self-esteem, and confidence and develop self-discipline participating in the event. Additionally, the Junior Nationals can serve as a pipeline to international competition and the Paralympic Games.

Junior Nationals is a week-long event for young athletes through the age of 22. A number of sports are also open to athletes with an intellectual disability as determined by the International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability (INAS).

The sports contested at the event include archery, powerlifting, swimming, table tennis, and track and field. Exhibition sports are often included as well as educational and social opportunities provided for the athletes, parents, coaches, and officials during the week of Junior Nationals.
INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR AND AMPUTEE SPORTS FEDERATION

The International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) is an international sports organization that governs sports for athletes with a physical disability and is the founder of the Paralympic Games. The Federation manages the IWAS World Games taking place on odd numbered years and the IWAS Under 23 World Games occurring on even years. Adaptive Sports USA is the U.S. member to IWAS.

For additional information about IWAS visit www.iwasf.com.

“When I first showed up to get my uniform, I had already considered myself as receiving an award. I was never so proud in my life as when I put on that Team USA jersey.” — George A., Troy, MO
ABOUT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
The Adaptive Sports USA National Conference and Delegate Assembly is a training, educating, and networking opportunity open to all professionals and students involved in, or wanting to learn more about, adaptive sports. The event provides a venue for professionals to share best practices and current trends in the movement.

Attendees of the Adaptive Sports USA National Conference and Delegate Assembly are able to:
✓ Network with peers.
✓ Choose from over two dozen sessions.
✓ Learn practical tips and strategies.
✓ Share best practices and lessons learned.
✓ Hear dynamic opening and closing speakers.
✓ Meet diverse and dedicated adaptive sports professionals from across the nation.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
The Adaptive Sports USA National Delegate Assembly (NDA) is held annually. The following Adaptive Sports USA official business occurs at the NDA:
1. Review of the reports of the Board of Directors, staff, and committees;
2. Action on all matters related to the membership of Adaptive Sports USA in accordance with provisions of its Constitution and Bylaws; and,
3. Action on all proposals to amend the Adaptive Sports USA Constitution and Bylaws, if needed.

Additional training and education clinics and events arise throughout the year through Adaptive Sports USA, our national chapter network, and within the Athletics for All Task Force.
Adaptive Sports USA focuses on the sports of archery, powerlifting, shooting, swimming, table tennis, and track and field and an infrastructure is in place to support each sport through a Sport Technical Committee or National Governing Body, as well as, a regional representative, per sport. These sport bodies and representatives have expertise in coaching and/or program and event development and are available to assist our chapter members, athletes, and the general public.

Many of our, nationwide chapter members offer local sport training opportunities, in these sports as well as, regional and national competitions. These sports are appropriate for athletes through all stages of sport development from a grassroots, recreational athlete to a competitive athlete with a goal of international competition.

Sport-specific information on the Adaptive Sports USA’s focus sports of archery, powerlifting, shooting, swimming, table tennis, and track and field can be found on our website.
WHERE WE FIT IN...

✓ The organization crosses the entire athlete pipeline serving local chapters to international competition

✓ Locally, the organization has a growing individual and chapter network of organizations providing ongoing adaptive sport programs, events, and annual competitions

✓ Nationally recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as a Multi-Sport Organization

✓ Internationally, the sole member of the International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation providing athletes with access to international competitions

✓ Athletics for All Task Force member

✓ National Council of Youth Sports member

✓ Work alongside other national nonprofits such as U.S. Paralympics, National Governing Bodies, and Disabled Sports Organizations to foster the development of sport for individuals with a disability
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Adaptive Sports USA has a national Board of Directors who lend expertise and skills, organizational leadership and general oversight and stewardship to move the organization into the future as a national leader. The members convene multiple times a year via conference calls and connect in person at the National Delegate Assembly.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Time, energy, and expertise is put forth by dozens of volunteer committee members each year. From the Sport Technical Committees, Marketing and Outreach Committee, and Junior Committee to the Training and Education Committee, and Membership Committee, committee members share their expertise in coaching, officiating, classification, event and program management, and sport development. Volunteers have backgrounds in Adapted Physical Education, Therapeutic Recreation, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Exercise Science, Coaching, Marketing, and more. Many committee members are past athletes who have gone on to become Paralympians, parents, and professionals who are now giving back as mentors.

GET INVOLVED!

EVENT SPECIFIC VOLUNTEERS
Live by one of the Adaptive Sports USA chapters or a host city for a signature event? We’d love to connect you locally to ongoing programs and annual special events.

As a growing organization and national leader, Adaptive Sports USA welcomes future interest in these important roles and thanks all of our current volunteers.
Adaptive Sports USA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and has many ways to support our organization. It is through the contributions of individuals, organizations, and corporate sponsors that we can make an impact in adaptive sports. Please consider the following ways to give and get involved.

**PROGRAM PARTNERS**
Program partners provide financial resources for ongoing operations such as the Adaptive Sports USA chapter and individual member network, equipment support, program delivery costs, outreach and awareness, and sport development.

**INDIVIDUAL DONORS**
It is through the generosity of individual donors that we are able to carry out our mission. Please consider making a gift today that will impact the athletes we serve.

**EVENT SPONSORS**
Event sponsors provide funding to a specific event. In particular, we are seeking sponsorship for our signature events, Junior Nationals and the National Conference and Delegate Assembly. In addition, we seek support for Adaptive Sports USA’s delegation at the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sport Federation World Games and Under 23 World Games.

**IN-KIND SPONSORS**
Donations of goods and services are a tremendous way to support Adaptive Sports USA and/or our events. Event management often involves coordination of transportation, lodging, food and beverage, printing, officiating, classification, athlete recognition, and equipment. Organizational support can include printing of marketing materials, website management services, graphic design services, legal and financial services, etc.

To learn more about how you can help us grow, visit adaptivesports.org/support-us.
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“My daughter has competed in the Adaptive Sports USA Junior National the last two years. The experience has really changed her life. Not only has Junior Nationals had an impact on her motivation to compete, it also helped my daughter socially. She has made so many new friends all over the country and continues to keep in touch through social media. Her network of friends and support system has grown and she loves sharing stories with her new friends.

Participating in the on-site clinics has also helped her grow into a better athlete.

Kira has some huge goals of one day going to the Paralympics. She hopes to either compete in the sport of swimming, track and field or triathlons. Thank you to the Adaptive Sports USA Junior Nationals for being a stepping stone to the Paralympics and motivating a young girl to compete in sports!”

— Mia Erickson Stevens

“I used to have lots of dreams where I could run and play and jump like the other kids. Now that I do adaptive sports and have met kids like me, I don’t have those dreams anymore. Now I just dream about winning medals in races.”

— Kelsie K. - Fredericksburg, VA

“I am new to the field of adaptive sports. This conference has motivated me to want to learn more techniques and interventions to help those interested in participating in adaptive sports. Also, it has sparked some more enthusiasm in me to get involved in more networking with other professionals who are leading different programs in adaptive sports”

— National Conference Attendee

“Being a part of the adaptive sports world opened up so many opportunities for both me and my family. The opportunities have allowed me to travel the world. These opportunities not only helped me to develop further as an athlete but also helped me to develop as an individual. I learned how to be independent at a young age, which is a challenge for any child regardless of disability. I learned how to be confident and to stand up for what I believe in. I learned that by setting goals and working hard I could achieve almost anything I set my mind to achieving. I am forever grateful for adaptive sport and the role it has played in my life.”

— Jessie (Galli) Cloy, Paralympian, Adaptive Sports USA Alumna and Committee member