

HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF
ADAPTIVE SPORTS & RECREATION



History of Adaptive Sports

Within the last 50 years, major strides have been made to break down the barriers that people with disabilities have had to face. With more than 55 million people having disabilities in the United States of America, we are seeing now, more than ever, the emergence of a special type of athlete. Adaptive sports has experienced unprecedented growth in the development of athletic leagues, facilities, and programs created specifically for these inspirational athletes. Listed below are some major pieces of legislation that made history for people with disabilities, and for adaptive sports:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (1990)

Prohibits discrimination based on disability to all facets of American life. As applied to adaptive physical education, sport and accessibility to sports venues, it guarantees access, reasonable accommodations and if the individual is capable, an opportunity to compete with able-bodied athletes.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (1997)

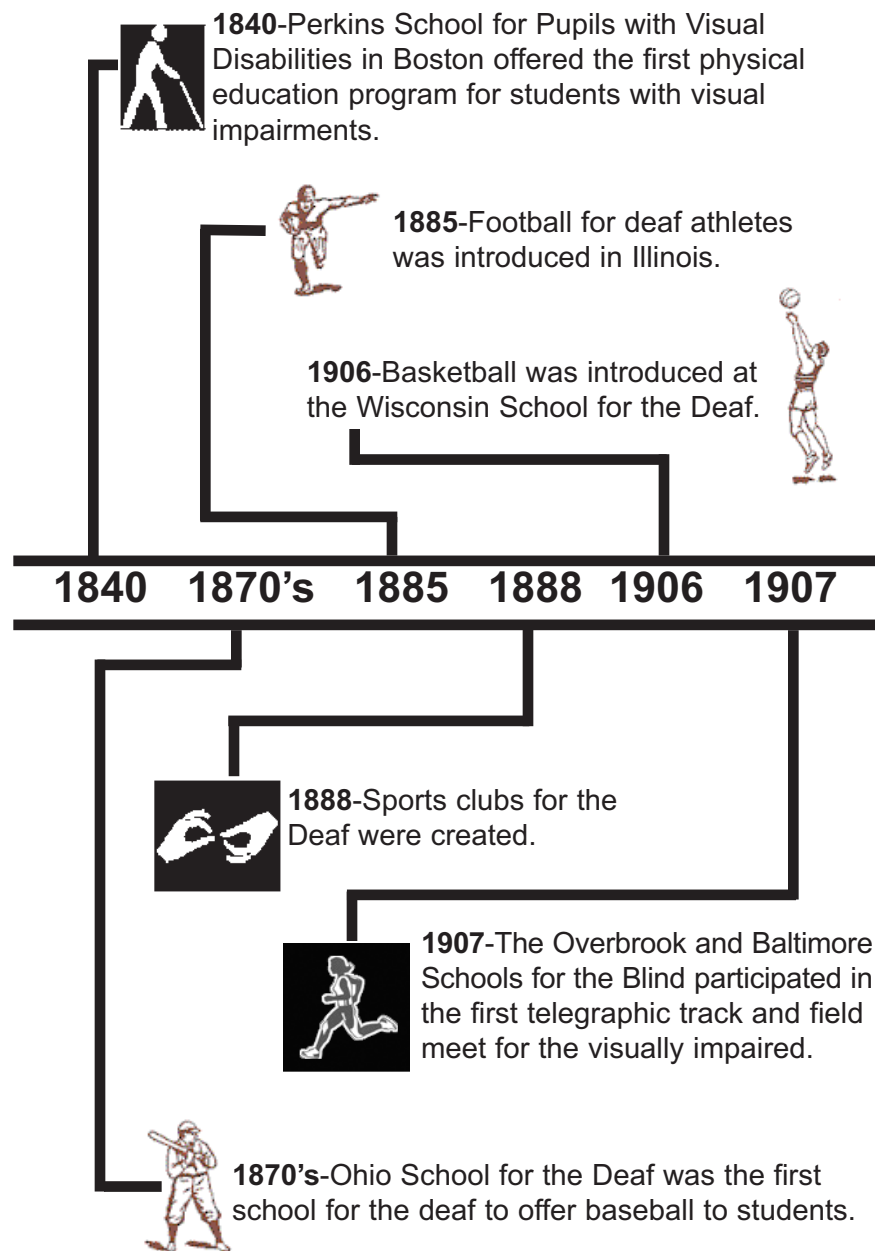
This legislation mandates special education, including physical education, be available to children with disabilities and that physical education programs be tailored to the individual needs of each student, if necessary. Children with disabilities are guaranteed an equal opportunity to participate in athletics and intramurals.

Amateur Sports Act of 1978

This act mandated the US Olympic Committee to coordinate national management and oversight of amateur sports, including competitions for adaptive athletes. The USOC created the Committee on Sports for the Disabled (COSD) to coordinate the development of sports for athletes with disabilities and the Paralympic team.

Amateur Sports Act of 1998

Resulting from this legislation, the US Olympic Committee created the US Paralympic Corporation (USPC) to coordinate the management and oversight of the US Paralympic movement. The USPC continues the development of adaptive sports.





1924-Nine countries participated in the first International Silent Games in Paris, France.

1956-National Wheelchair Athletic Association was founded. They are now Wheelchair Sports USA.



July 28, 1948-The inaugural Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Games was held in Buckinghamshire, England. Although the Paralympics evolved from this event, it is still held annually and is now called the World Wheelchair Games.

1922 1924 1945 1948 1949 1956



1945-The American Athletic Association for the Deaf was founded. They have since changed their name to the USA Deaf Sports Federation.

1949-The University of Illinois hosted the first national wheelchair basketball tournament.



1922-CISS, The International Committee of Sports for the Deaf, was founded.

1973-Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act was introduced into legislation.



1967-The National Handicapped Sports Association was founded.

1964-The International Sport Organization was founded.



1960 1964 1965 1967 1968 1973



1965-The International Summer Games for Athletes with Hearing Disabilities took place in Washington, D.C.

1968-The Kennedy Foundation established the International Special Olympics.



1960-The 9th Annual Stokes Mandeville Wheelchair Games was held six days after the close of the XVII Summer Olympics in Rome. This marked the first time games for athletes with disabilities were contested in the same year and city as the Summer Olympics.



1976-US Association of Blind Athletes was founded.



1978-Introduction of the Amateur Sports Act.

1982-The International Coordinating Committee for Sports for the Disabled in the World (ICC) was founded.



1986-Dwarf Athletic Association of America was founded.



1976 1978 1982 1984 1986 1989

1984-The International Olympic Committee recognized the term "Paralympics" and retroactively assigns name to the Stoke Mandeville Games beginning in 1960.



1986-The US Les Autres Association was founded.



1989-The International Paralympic Committee was founded.



1978-The US Cerebral Palsy Athletic Association was founded.

1990-The Americans with Disabilities Act became federal legislation.



April 1, 2001-The first annual Achilles Marathon for people with disabilities took place in New York.



September 30, 2000-Marla Runyan, despite being legally blind, finished 8th in the 1,500 meters at the Summer Olympics in Sydney. It was the best finish ever by an American woman in that particular event.



1990 1999 2000 2001

July 26, 1999-The Invacare World Team Cup Wheelchair Tennis Tournament was held at the USTA National Tennis Center in New York.



January 13, 2001-The Mayor's Cup Big Apple Classic Wheelchair Basketball Tournament took place in New York.



1990-The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act became federal legislation.



June 19, 2001- IOC and IPC sign agreement on the organization of the Paralympic Games: The agreement reaffirms that the Paralympic Games, which are the world games for athletes with a disability, always take place shortly after the Olympic Games, using the same



September 26-27, 2003-"Integration Through Sport" was the motto of the first International Paralympic Day 2003, which took place from September 26-27 in Bonn, Germany.

2001

2003

2004

September 18, 2003-Neil Parry, whose lower right leg was amputated, played on the punt return unit for the San Jose State football team against Nevada.



September 17-28, 2004-Nearly 4,000 athletes from a record 136 countries participated in 19 Paralympic sports at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games.



May 25, 2001-Erik Weihenmayer became the first legally blind person to reach the summit of Mount Everest.