PARALYMPIC SPORT STRUCTURE
AN INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

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- U.S. Paralympics
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- United States Olympic Committee
Paralympic Sport Structure
An Introduction and Overview

Session Agenda
- What is the IPC?
- U.S.O.C and U.S. Paralympic Mission, Vision and Goals
- U.S. Paralympic Landscape
- Paralympics Milestones under USOC Leadership
- U.S. Paralympic Priority Initiatives
- U.S. Paralympic Competitive Strategy
- U.S. Paralympic Sport Structure
- Chronology of a Paralympic Athlete
- Q&A
- Summary
Overview and Introduction

• What would you like to get out of today’s session?
PARALYMPIC SPORT STRUCTURE
AN INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

What is the IPC?

- International Paralympic Committee
  - Global governing body of the Paralympic Movement
    - Similar to the International Olympic Committee (IOC)
  - Serves as the International Federation (IF) for nine sports
  - Oversees the organization of the Paralympic Summer and Winter Games
  - Coordinates World Championships and other competitions
PARALYMPIC SPORT STRUCTURE
AN INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

What is the IPC?

• International Paralympic Committee
  – Founded in 1989
  – Headquartered in Bonn, Germany
  – Non-profit
    ▪ 30 full time staff
    ▪ IPC President is IOC Member
• Membership
  – 170 National Paralympic Committees (NPC)
  – 4 Regional Organizations
  – 4 Disability Specific International Sports Federations (IOSD)
  – 11 International Sports Federations (IF)
Paralympic Sports

- International Paralympic Committee governs:
  - Alpine Skiing
  - Athletes (Track and Field)
  - Biathlon
  - Cross-Country Skiing
  - Ice Sledge (Sled) Hockey
  - Powerlifting
  - Shooting
  - Swimming
  - Wheelchair Dance
Paralympic Sports

- International Organization of Sport for the Disabled (IOSD) governs:
  - Boccia
  - Football – 7 a side (Soccer)

- International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) governs:
  - Football – 5 a side
  - Goalball
  - Judo

- International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) governs:
  - Wheelchair Fencing
Paralympic Sports

- International Federation (IF) governs eleven sports in 2011 and thirteen sports in (2016)
  - Archery
  - Cycling
  - Equestrian
  - Para-Canoe (2016)
  - Rowing
  - Sailing
  - Table Tennis
  - Para-Triathlon (2016)
  - Sitting Volleyball
  - Wheelchair Basketball
  - Wheelchair Curling
  - Wheelchair Rugby
  - Wheelchair Tennis
PARALYMPIC SPORT STRUCTURE
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IPC General Assembly Structure

International Sports Federations (IFS)

National Paralympic Committees (NPCs)

International Organizations of Sports for the Disabled (IOSD)

Regional Organizations (ROs)

IPC Regions*

Standing Committees

Anti-Doping Committee
Audit and Finance Committee
Development Committee
Legal and Ethics Committee
Medical Committee
Women in Sport Committee

Athletes with High Support Committee
Classification Committee
Education Committee
Paralympic Games Committee
Sports Science Committee

Governing Board

Management Team

Sport Technical Committees

Councillors

Athletes’ Council
IOSDs’ Council
Regions’ Council
Sports’ Council

*Speaking and Voting Rights
** Speaking Rights
PARALYMPIC SPORT STRUCTURE
AN INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

USOC Mission
• Support U.S. Olympic and Paralympic athletes in achieving sustained competitive excellence and preserve the Olympic ideals and there by inspire all Americans.

U.S. Paralympic Mission
• Dedicated to becoming a world leader in Paralympic Sport and promoting excellence in the lives of individuals with disabilities.
USOC Paralympic Vision

The USOC vision is for an America that is a leader in the international Paralympic movement, that understands and values the Paralympic ideas, excels in Paralympic competition, and offers abundant opportunities to participate in Paralympic sport at the community level.
Paralympic Landscape (USA)

- 1960’s through mid 1990’s
  - US was number 1 in the world in medal count for Paralympic sport in Summer Games
  - Top three in medal count for Winter Games.

- Mid 90’s to ‘04
  - No one entity was focused on building the Paralympic movement in the U.S.
  - U.S. competitiveness at the Paralympic Games declined significantly from 1992 to 2004
International Competitiveness

- Decline of U.S. Paralympic performance was driven by:
  - Lack of:
    - Centralized Paralympic focus
    - Grassroots pipeline development
    - Elite coaching
    - Consistent competition
    - Programmatic investment
  - Consolidation of competition classes and few medal opportunities
  - Greater number of athletes participating at the Paralympic Games
  - Increased investment by other countries in their Paralympic programs
## Paralympic Sport Structure

### An Introduction and Overview

Team USA Overall Ranking and Medals – 1988 to 2010

**Paralympic Games**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>Below 3rd</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>273 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>175 (12%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
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<td>158 (10%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>109 (7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>88 (6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>99 (7%)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Medals</th>
<th>% of Medals</th>
<th># of Athletes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>3,057</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>3,001</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>3,259</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>3,881</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3,881</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3,808</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3,808</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>3,951</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3,951</td>
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**Paralympic Winter Games**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>45 (19%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>43 (11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>34 (9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>43 (16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>12 (7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>13 (7%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>% of Medals</th>
<th># of Athletes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>Lillehammer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>Nagano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>Salt Lake City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>Torino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
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Paralympic Growth under USOC Leadership

• 2004 – Present
  – Paralympics became part of the USOC mission statement (2004)
  – USOC expanded organizational focus on Paralympics (2005)
  – Started to build the Paralympic national team (2005-2008)
    ▪ Infrastructure for Athletes (Track and Field), Cycling and Swimming
    ▪ Assessed situation for growth in skiing (Alpine, Nordic and Biathlon)
  – USOC began to address building of the Paralympic grassroots pipeline (2007)
  – Changed management of sled hockey program to USA Hockey (2007)
  – Changed management of skiing to USOC (2010)
Paralympic Growth under USOC Leadership

- 2004 – Present
  - Developed Paralympic-branded sport club network in 150+ communities (2008)
- Harris Interactive reports increase in awareness of Paralympics among Americans
  - < 5% (2002)
  - > 60% (2008)
  - > 70% (2010)
- Hired dedicated Paralympic revenue staff in late 2010
Paralympic Sport Milestones under USOC Leadership

- Improvements in Paralympic Games high performance since 2004
  - Overall
    - 4\textsuperscript{th} to 3\textsuperscript{rd} in overall and gold medal count (two medals out of second place overall)
  - Swimming
    - 5\textsuperscript{th} to 1\textsuperscript{st} in gold medals
    - 2\textsuperscript{nd} overall
    - 2\textsuperscript{nd} in 2010 Worlds
    - Increased “A” standard athlete pool
  - Track and Field
    - 8\textsuperscript{th} to 2\textsuperscript{nd} in overall medal count
    - 4\textsuperscript{th} 2011 Worlds (34 medals. Four medals out of second place.)
    - Best performance since 2000
    - Increased ”A” standard athlete pool
Paralympic Sport Milestones under USOC Leadership

- Improvements in Paralympic Games high performance since 2004
  - Cycling
    - 7th to 2nd in overall medal count
    - Won 2011 World Road Championship
    - 2nd in World Road and Track
    - 100+ competitor increase at this year’s cycling nationals
  - USA Hockey
    - Gold medal at Vancouver Paralympic Games
    - Developed a strong athlete pipeline
USOC Paralympic Priority Initiatives

- Recruit and implement Paralympic Advisory Committee
  - Identify leaders that can impact high performance and revenue generation
- Improve competitive performance
  - Leading up to London and Sochi, invest in training support for high medal opportunity sports
- Increase unrestricted revenue in order to invest in high performance
  - Garner diversified support from the philanthropic community, government funds, and continue to build sponsor assets
- Priority USOC Paralympic Initiatives
  - Expand the number of sport clubs and targeted urban development programs
  - Builds awareness for and participation in Paralympic sport.
- Broaden media and public awareness of the Paralympic Movement
  - Increase grassroots and emerging participation
  - Grow the philanthropic base
  - Increase sponsor value
  - Generate grassroots advocacy
PARALYMPIC SPORT STRUCTURE
AN INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

U.S. Paralympic Organizational Structure

Larry Probst
Chair, Board of Directors

James Benson
Chair, Paralympic Advisory Committee (PAC)

Scott Blackmum
Chief Executive Officer

Ann Cody
Co-chair, PAC

Charlie Huebner
Chief of Paralympics

Larry Probst
Chair, Board of Directors

James Benson
Chair, Paralympic Advisory Committee (PAC)

Scott Blackmum
Chief Executive Officer

Ann Cody
Co-chair, PAC

Charlie Huebner
Chief of Paralympics

Steve Whisnant
Managing Director, Paralympic Outreach Programs

Mike Mushett
Director
Community and Veterans Programs

Roger Neppl
Director
Military Programs

Julie O’Neill
Director
Sport Performance

Joe Walsh
Managing Director, International Relations

Jeannine Hansen
Director
Public Relations
PARALYMPIC SPORT STRUCTURE
AN INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Competitive Excellence Strategy

- Stabilize and grow primary sports through investment strategy focused on moving national team athletes to medal status.

- Provide appropriate support for elite team and athletes, strategically target opportunity medals.

- Engage community programs, competitive event organizers and coaches in identifying and developing Paralympic emerging focus.

- Provide training and technical assistance to implement self-sufficient Paralympic-branded community programs.
Community Programs

- Paralympic Sport Club (PSC)
  - Develop a community-based sport development network operated by local agencies that increase the availability of Paralympic programming, and broaden the awareness of the Paralympic brand.

- Regional Development Programs
  - Texas, New England, Chicago, Northern California, Atlanta

- Paralympic Leadership Conference (PLC)
  - Annual, nationwide conference to train, educate and empower the “doers and influencers” of the Paralympic movement.
  - Held at the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center (CSOTC) in April.

- Paralympic Research and Sport Science Consortium
  - Conduct, promote and support Paralympic research and sport science through collaborative study.
Chronology of a Paralympic Athlete

- Tim Willis
  - Three time Paralympian in Track and Field
    - Atlanta (1996)
      - Silver Medal, 10,000m
      - Bronze Medal, 1,500m, 5,000m, and 4X400m relay
    - Sydney (2000)
      - Bronze Medal, 10,000m
  - World Record Holder
    - 10,000 m (33:54)
PARALYMPIC SPORT STRUCTURE
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• Community Programs Managers
  – Dan Schwieder, Central US, dan.schwieder@usoc.org
  – Dawna Callahan, Eastern US, dawna.callahan@usoc.org
  – Susan Rossi, Western US, susan.rossi@usoc.org

• U.S. Paralympic Website [www.usparalympics.org]
• U.S. Paralympics Mobile Site
• U.S.O.C. Website [www.teamusa.org]
• Paralympic Resource Network [www.usparalympics.org]
• Facebook [http://www.facebook.com/usparalympics]
• Twitter [http://twitter.com/#!/usparalympics]
• YouTube [http://www.youtube.com/usparalympics1]
• Electronic Newsletter [www.usparalympics.org]
Paralympic Movement continues to grow, gain momentum, and become a global force!

• Membership in the IPC
• Interest in Paralympic Sport

U.S. has a sharper focus on Paralympics, integrating into the USOC Mission and Vision, and moving toward making Paralympics “parallel” to the Olympics.

Grassroots efforts at the community level continue to drive the Paralympic Movement throughout the US and fuels our quest for developing Paralympic Medalists.