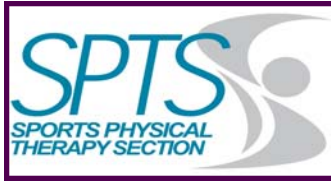


Physically Challenged Athlete Sports Page

The Official Newsletter of The Physically Challenged Athlete SIG • Winter 2011



What is the difference between Special Olympics and Paralympics?

Special Olympics and Paralympics are two separate organizations recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). They are similar in that they both focus on sport for athletes with a disability and are run by international non-profit organizations. The Special Olympics provides an opportunity for athletes with mental and cognitive impairments to compete in an event whose focus is on participation. Everyone is welcome to take part and all are considered winners and receive prizes. Special Olympics offers over 30 Olympic-type individual and team sports. Paralympic athletes are elite competitors who must qualify for their competitions along similar guidelines as their Olympic counterparts. These athletes may have physical, visual, or intellectual impairment. Five events were on the 2010 Vancouver program and 20 events will be held in London 2012. Recently para-triathlon and para-canoe were added as paralympic sports and will debut at RIO 2016.

To learn more about each organization, please visit:

<http://www.specialolympics.org/> & <http://www.paralympic.org/index.html>

Research Spotlight



Congratulations to *Latoya Washington*, a recent physical therapy graduate from Northern Arizona University for presenting the following research *Influence of Trunk on Wheelchair Propulsion: Using Evidence to Guide Classification System Review* at the VISTA conference held in

Bonn Germany this past September. The VISTA conference provides a platform for sport scientists to meet with experts in the field of sport for athletes with a disability. Latoya was mentored by Dr. Anne Hart, the current PC athlete SIG secretary.

The Physically Challenged Athlete SIG webpage can be viewed at: <http://www.spts.org/education/special-interest-groups/physically-challenged-athletes>

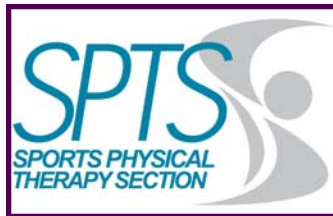
Program Spotlight - Brooks Adaptive Sports and Recreation



In 2010 ~350 children and adults participated at either the recreational or competitive levels in this Jacksonville, FL community program. This program sponsors adaptive sporting events and competitions, as well as instructional clinics with the goal of improving the physical and social-emotional well-being of individuals with disabilities. 14 sporting events are offered each week including: rowing, fitness classes, handcycling, wheelchair rugby and wheelchair tennis. Other biannual events include water skiing, surfing, archery, and horseback riding.

To learn more about this organization, please visit:

<http://www.brookshealth.org/community-health/adaptive-sports/>



Back Page News & Notes

A behind the scenes update on the Physically Challenged Athlete Special Interest Group

The Physically Challenged Athlete SIG will be presenting the following education session **Redefining Normalcy for Wounded and Injured Warriors through Exercise and Sport** at CSM in Chicago on Saturday February 11 in collaboration with the Federal Section. Part 1: 8-10am, Part 2: 10:30-12:30pm - Location TBA.

The business meeting for the SIG will be held at 7am on Saturday February 11 - location TBA.

Please "like" the Physically Challenged Athlete SIG - APTA on facebook to get up to date information on the SIG.

For further information about this SIG, or if you would like to contribute to future newsletters, please contact Shana Harrington, PT, PhD, SCS, MTC at:
s.harrington@unf.edu

This biannual newsletter is provided for the members of the Physically Challenged Athlete SIG of the Sports Section of the APTA. To learn more about the Sports Section or to join the SIG, please go to the: www.spts.org