

PacificSport Vancouver Island Junior Wheelchair Sports Program

Wheelchair Rugby, Tennis, Basketball and Athletics

Purpose:

To provide the opportunity for junior wheelchair athletes (12 – 20 years) to train and participate on sports teams at both the recreation and competitive levels – FUNdamental, Learn to Train and Train to Train stage of the LTAD. We have a number of athletes in our region but they are spread out in many different communities and lack opportunity to play on a team/group.

Plan of Action:

- Establish coaches/leaders in each community – Cowichan Valley Nanaimo, Parksville/Qualicum, Comox/Courtenay, Campbell River, Port Alberni and Powell River.
- Connect with the local school districts, parks and recreation centres and organizations that support youth with disabilities.
 - Identify and secure venues to support the programs
 - Establish a recruitment list of potential athletes in each community. Connect with the athletes and families.
 - Host a try it session and promote the program
- Work with the local coaches to:
 - Provide coach training
 - Develop lesson plans for each sport
 - Determine the seasons of play for each sport
 - Arrange for athletes to travel 1 x per month to one centre to train and play together as a team. The centre for team training will rotate between each of the participating centres to keep travel costs down for each individual.
 - Create competitive opportunities for each sport with neighbouring regions such as South Island, Lower Mainland etc.
- Apply for additional grants to continue to fund the program

Short Term Outcomes:

- Increase the number of youth with disability participating in wheelchair sports Mid to North Island and the Sunshine Coast.
- Increase the physical, social & emotional well-being of our athletes.
- Provide training for coaches and supporters in each community,
- Establish a PSVI Wheelchair Sports Team in each of the targeted sports (tennis, rugby, basketball & athletics)
- Compete in local Elementary and Secondary District Track and Field Meets, other local competitions.

Long Term Outcomes:

- Establish Wheelchair sports in the elementary and secondary school sports programs.
- Compete at BC Games and place athletes on Team BC for Canada Games and beyond.
- Continue to increase the physical, social & emotional well-being of our athletes.
- Develop role models for other athletes with disabilities in communities.

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