

# U.S. Paralympics Sport Performance



## *Terms & Definitions*

### ATHLETE PIPELINE

**Recreational:** Athlete involvement in sport at the local and community level, may be competitive or non-competitive (i.e. fitness), participatory in nature, emphasis on skill-development and sport education.

**Developmental:** Athlete involvement of a competitive nature at the local and / or regional level, single or multi-sport focus, emphasis on skill-development, growth, and performance / results improvement.

**Emerging:** Athlete involvement of a competitive nature at the local, regional and / or national level, single or dual sport focus, performance /results oriented. May include exposure to international competition, National “Junior” Teams on a sport-by-sport basis, participation and selection to international event teams / groups for designated events.

**Elite:** Athlete involvement of a competitive nature at the national and international level, primarily single sport focus (may be dual sport focus), performance / results oriented, national and international competition at the most elite level of the respective sport(s). May participate and be selected to international event teams / groups for designated events.

**National Team:** Athlete involvement of a competitive nature at the national and international level, primarily single sport focus (may be dual sport focus), performance / results oriented, national and international competition at the most elite level of the respective sport(s). Athlete meets or exceeds designated performance criteria for National Team nomination.

**Paralympic Podium:** Athlete achieves sustained competitive excellence at highest levels of the sport – i.e. Paralympic medalist / podium finish.

### COMPETITION

**Local Events:** Community level, may be single or multi-sport, disability focused or integrated with able-bodied participants. Athletes typically represent local team, program or training group.

**Regional Events:** State and multi-state level, may be single or multi-sport, disability focused or integrated with able-bodied participants. Athletes typically represent local team, program or training group.

**National Events:** Typically single-sport, draw participants from all 50 states, qualifying criteria / standards often required for participation, disability focused. May include able-bodied events for which Paralympic-eligible athletes have met qualifying criteria. Athletes typically represent local team, program or training group.

**International Events:** Single and multi sport (i.e. Paralympic Games), draw participants from all regions and nations, qualifying criteria / standards frequently required for participation. Athletes typically represent nation.

# Paralympic Sport Performance Pipeline

