The Sports Association is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with physical disabilities and visual impairments through adaptive sports and recreation.

The Sports Association has completed its 23rd year of providing adaptive sports and recreation to individuals with physical disabilities and visual impairments. Each year, we strive to reach as many individuals as possible, while providing a diverse, high quality adaptive sports program. 2018 proved to be another fantastic year of adaptive sports with new adventures and accomplishments.

2018 Overview
Offered programs in 14 different adaptive sports throughout the year.

- Offered over 221 adaptive sports opportunities, including 100 events (47 clinics, 31 club events, 22 classes), 88 sports team practices and 52 competitive opportunities.

- Empowered 234 unique individuals to reach towards their adaptive sports goals. This is an increase of 40% over the past 5 years.

- 147 individuals volunteered 693 times to help run our programs.

- 14 coaches and instructors helped to provide 460 hours of adaptive sports programming.

- Featured in the media a total of 23 times for 11 different events.

- Over 600 individuals have benefited from the Sports Association’s adaptive sports programs over the past 5 years!

The Sports Association has shown me that “I CAN.” I CAN have ability... I CAN be strong... I CAN build self-confidence... I CAN BE ME...”
**Persons Served**

- 28% SPINAL CORD INJURY
- 23% OTHER
- 14% STROKE
- 11% TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
- 10% AMPUTEE
- 6% CEREBRAL PALSY
- 3% SPINA BIFIDA
- 2% VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

**Demographics**

- 72% Male
- 28% Female

- 34% Age 60 and older
- 52% Ages 30-60
- 14% Age 30 and under

**Programs**

- Adaptive Sport Clinics
- Club Sports
- Competitive Teams
- Classes
- Tournaments
- Special Events

**Sports Offered**

- Alpine Skiing
- Archery
- Boccia
- Cycling
- Fishing
- Golf
- Kayaking
- Paratriathlon
- Quad Rugby
- Rock Climbing
- Sled Hockey
- Wheelchair Tennis
- Water Skiing
- Yoga

**Think Possible**

“The Sports Association has given me opportunities to try things that I never thought I could do.”

[Click to visit gaylord.org/sports]
**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS** 2018

**Special Events**

*NEW* Hosted the inaugural **SMASH BOWL** Wheelchair Rugby Tournament in conjunction with Southern Connecticut Statue University in February 2018. This tournament brought together 8 able-bodied rugby teams and community groups to try wheelchair rugby and compete for a chance to play the Gaylord Jammers in the championship game.

Hosted the 3rd Annual **Adaptive Sports Fest** in collaboration with SCSU in April 2018. This multi-sport event offered adaptive sports clinics in basketball, rugby, golf, yoga, boccia, lacrosse, and goalball, as well as an expo area featuring local adaptive sports organizations. Steve Emt, a member of the US Paralympic Curling Team, was the guest speaker. The Adaptive Sports Fest is the only event of its kind in CT.

Hosted teams from around the northeast for the **CT Classic Wheelchair Rugby Tournament**. The tournament was hosted for the 3rd year at the Sports & Medical Sciences Academy in Hartford, CT.

Introduced adaptive cycling to over a dozen participants during the annual **Adaptive Cycle Clinic** in May 2018.

Our annual **Adaptive Climbing Clinic** at Prime Climb enabled fifteen participants to challenge themselves and reach new heights.

**Competitive Opportunities**

- The Gaylord Wolfpack sled hockey team competed in the Disabled Hockey Festival in Chicago and won the National Championship in Division B.
- Sled Hockey player Rachel Grusse was named a member of the **USA Women’s National Sled Hockey Team**.
- Athletes in the **Paratriathlon Training Program** trained over the summer to compete in the Dave Parcells Madison Triathlon. Doug Levens, USAT Level 2 coach, joined our coaching team as the head Paratriathlon coach.
- The **Ken Murphy Memorial Open Golf Tournament (KMMO)**, a golf tournament for golfers with disabilities, was held in June at the Farms Country Club. This is the only golf tournament of its kind in Connecticut!
- Members of the **Gaylord Sports Association Hornets Tennis Team** took part in a Wheelchair Tennis demonstration at the Wint Filapek Tennis Tournament on June 9th at Cheshire High School.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
2018

Adaptive Sport Clinics and Clubs

- Offered 47 adaptive sports clinics providing the opportunity for participants to try or re-learn a sport.
- Over a dozen individuals experienced the thrill of waterskiing during our Adaptive Waterski Clinics.
- We taught participants the skills needed to kayak during our indoor kayak classes at the Gaylord pool. Class graduates are able to join us for open water kayak outings during the summer.
- Offered a fall and spring seated yoga class series taught by a certified instructor. This is our second full year offering seated yoga and it has been popular with both Sports Association members and Gaylord in-patients.
- Boccia, our newest sport, allows individuals of all abilities to compete during our open play nights offered in the fall and winter.
- Offered 24 opportunities for participants to get involved in the sport of archery, our fastest growing sport. This includes indoor and outdoor clinics for Sports Association members and Gaylord patients as well as Adaptive Archery Club practices. The club is a registered USA Archery Club and the only one of its kind in Connecticut.
- Provided 19 golf opportunities in the form of indoor and outdoor clinics, club outings and our golf tournament. This is one of our most popular programs and the original sport offered by the Sports Association. Advanced golfers have the opportunity to join our golf club and participate in outings at the Farms Country Club, Sleeping Giant Golf Course and Orange Hills Country Club.
- **NEW** Offered a Therapeutic Horseback Riding Discovery Night in conjunction with the Therapeutic Recreation department at Gaylord Hospital.
- The Ski Club offered 5 ski trips to CT, VT, and NH for participants to take adaptive downhill skiing or snowboarding lessons.
SAVES is a program of the Gaylord Hospital Sports Association that offers adaptive sports programs specifically for veterans who have experienced permanent physical disabilities, visual impairment or PTSD. The goal of the program is to support veterans in attaining a healthy lifestyle, better quality of life and new peer relationships through adaptive sports. The program offers two fishing tournaments, adaptive golf and adaptive archery. We also welcome and encourage veteran participation in any of our adaptive sport programs.

*NEW* Held 3 Veterans Adaptive Archery Clinics on the Gaylord Campus.

Offered a 6-week Golf Class for Veterans at Sleeping Giant Golf Course.

Hosted a 25-boat Veteran’s Fishing Tournament in collaboration with the CT BASS Nation and the Maj. Steven Roy Andrews Fishing Outreach Program.

67 VETERANS joined the Sports Association for programs in 2018.
Sports Association programs are fully funded through individual donors, corporate sponsors, grants and fundraising events. Without the generous support from our donors and the efforts of the fundraising committees, our programs would not be possible. Thank you to the Gaylord Hospital Development Department, the Gaylord Golf Classic Committee and the Gaylord Gauntlet Committee for their dedication and fundraising efforts. Every donation, small or large helps to support our mission to improve the lives of persons with physical disabilities through adaptive sports and recreation. Although we can’t list all our donors here, we appreciate each and every donation and thank all our supporters for making this program POSSIBLE!

Fundraising Events

The Gaylord Golf Classic was held in June and is our premier fundraising event. Thanks to our dedicated committee, sponsors and donors, $100,000 was raised for the program!

The fifth running of the Gaylord Gauntlet, a 5K obstacle trail run, was held in June 2018. The Sports Association’s team conquered the course with adaptive athlete Jillian Harpin. Almost 1000 athletes competed in the event, which raised $72,000 for the Sports Association!

Income

Thank you to our major program supporters:

Werth Family Foundation

& Department of Veteran’s Affairs

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PMA Companies

Scappaticci-Steinberg Foundation

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Orange Hills Country Club
Prime Climb
Southern Connecticut State University
Sleeping Giant Golf Course
Ti-Trikes
The Farms Country Club
USA Archery
Valley Shore YMCA
Westminster School

To make a donation, please visit www.gaylord.org/donateSA
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