

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is MASD?**

The Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled (MASD) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing sports and recreation opportunities to individuals with all types of disability. The Association provides year round sports training and competition through Team Mesa adaptive programs for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. In addition, sports and recreation opportunities are provided for individuals with physical disabilities through programs sanctioned by Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports USA, Disabled Sports USA, US Association of Blind Athletes and US Paralympics. The Association also coordinates various resources in a cooperative effort with the Mesa Public Schools and the City of Mesa Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities to provide a comprehensive program of sports and recreation to individuals with disabilities of all ages.

### **What is Arizona Disabled Sports (AzDS)?**

Arizona Disabled Sports was developed as a trade name of MASD in 2007 to reduce the assumption that athletes had to be from Mesa to participate in the MASD programs. The trade name is mostly beneficial when referring to the programs offered for individuals with physical disabilities because they travel from all across the state of Arizona to participate in the weekly programs. The trade name has also allowed the organization to expand resources throughout the state of Arizona rather than being restricted to Mesa. AzDS is allowed to host programs in Tempe and Scottsdale as well as recruit sponsors and grants from outside of Mesa. AzDS is just a trade name for the organization. The Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled (MASD) remains the legal name of the non-profit organization.

### **Who is eligible to participate in the adaptive programs?**

The Team Mesa programs are sports training and competition programs for individuals ages 8 through adulthood who are developmentally disabled. There is no maximum age limit on participation. The sports for people with physical disabilities is designed for athletes age 6 through adulthood who have an orthopedic, neurological or sensory impairment. This could include but is not limited to amputation, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury or visual impairment.

### **What is the difference between Team Mesa and the Physically Challenged programs?**

The Team Mesa adaptive programs are a sports program for individuals with intellectual disabilities. As a general rule, if your school aged child is placed in a Moderately Mentally Disabled classroom (MOMD), Mildly Mentally Disabled classroom (MIMD), Severely Mentally Disabled classroom (SMD) or Multiply Disabled classroom (MD), the place for them to compete is with Team Mesa. The Physically Challenged programs are designed for athletes who have an orthopedic, neurological or sensory impairment. This could include but is not limited to amputation, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury or visual impairment. As a general rule, potential athletes with physical disabilities who are still in school are those in the regular classrooms or the Orthopedically Impaired Classroom (OI).

### **If I have both a physical disability and an intellectual disability, what is the appropriate program for me?**

MASD would suggest that the athlete with both a physical and intellectual disability either try each program (Team Mesa and Physically Challenged) at least once to see where the best fit is for the individual OR sit through a very informal assessment interview with the program staff to see which program style would best benefit the athlete.

**What is the difference between Special Olympics Arizona and MASD?**

Special Olympics Arizona (SOAZ) is a non-profit organization serving individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities within the state of Arizona. The partnership between MASD, the City of Mesa Parks, Recreation & Commercial Facilities and the Mesa Public Schools serve as Team Mesa which is a delegation of SOAZ. The state organization hosts the large state-wide competitions including Summer Games, Winter Games and Fall Games. A selection of the Team Mesa athletes that are sponsored by the partnership in Mesa will attend these state-wide competitions. SOAZ has developed several "areas" for competitions as well. Team Mesa competes in the Four Peaks Area competitions throughout the year. MASD, the City of Mesa and Mesa Public Schools support the planning and implementation of the area competitions and host several of them in Mesa.

**Do the athletes have to live in Mesa to participate in an MASD program?**

Due to the unique nature of the programs offered by MASD, participation is not limited to residents of Mesa, Arizona. Participants in the programs have resided throughout the metropolitan Phoenix area and the state of Arizona. Non-residents that register for the Team Mesa programs will pay a slightly higher registration rate with the City of Mesa Parks, Recreation & Commercial Facilities.

**Is there a charge/fee for the MASD programs?**

Individuals participating in the adaptive programs will pay a minimal registration fee per season. The registration fee structure for the Team Mesa programs is \$20 per sport. The registration and fees for Team Mesa programs are collected by the City of Mesa Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities which is the partner organization of MASD. The registration fee structure for the Physically Challenged programs is \$35 for one sport, \$40 for two sports, and \$45 for three or more sports per season. The registration and fees for the Physically Challenged programs are collected by MASD. The bowling programs have a minimal cost which is given directly to the bowling alley. Other costs that may occur throughout the season include travel to regional or national competitions, team clothing/uniforms (if kept by the athlete), etc.