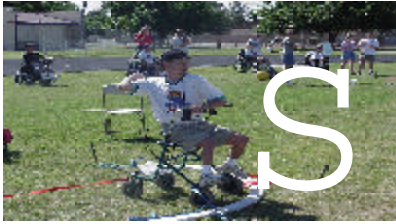


Spring 2001

Mesa Sports for Disabled



portsline



Let No One Sit on the Sidelines!

Spring Registration to Offer Free T-Shirts!

Spring sports registration will take place on **Tuesday, January 16th** or **Wednesday, January 17th** from **6:30 PM to 8:30 PM** in the **Grand Canyon Suites of the Mesa Public Schools Student Services Center, 1025 North Country Club Drive in Mesa (just south of Brown Road across from Mesa Lutheran Hospital)**. This registration will be for all spring sports in MASD's calendar, including Special Olympics Basketball, Bowling, Track & Field, Tennis and Wheelchair Sports Track & Field, Swimming, Archery, Boccia and Cycling. **Those athletes who take advantage of this registration will receive a free Association T-shirt. This offer will apply only to those athletes who register on January 16th or 17th at the Student Services Center.** It is very difficult to hold the first practices of the season and register athletes at the same time. Preregistration enables us to check medical release information, provide coaches with current emergency contact information and allows the coaches to concentrate on running the first night of practice! **So plan on making one of these registrations, get signed up for all of your spring sports and earn a t-shirt in the process!**

MASD Thanks Year Round Sponsors!

The Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled would like to recognize **Target Stores of Mesa, The Mesa Hohokams, Newline Products and the Desert Club of Mesa** for their continuing support of Association programs throughout the year. Target pledged \$5,000 this year, the Hohokams and Desert Club each pledged \$3,000, and Newline Products again provided more than \$5,000 in in-kind services. This community support enables MASD to continue to provide quality sports and recreation programs for the disabled. If you have a chance to patronize Target Stores or Newline Products (trophies, sportswear, t-shirts), please take the opportunity to do so. And while you are there, thank them for their support of MASD. If you know a member of the Hohokams or Desert Club, take a minute to thank them for their efforts! It is appreciated!

Play it by HEART founded in East Valley

Play it by HEART is a new nonprofit agency in the Phoenix area serving persons with physical disabilities, sensory impairments, learning disabilities or mental retardation. Play it by HEART (Habilitation through Education, Arts, and Recreation Training) offers a full schedule of classes in drama, visual arts, cooking and crafts as well as weekly dances and social events. It is the goal of Play it by HEART to provide quality experiences in the areas of arts and recreation for those who have limited opportunities for expressive and creative outlets. For more information on Play it by HEART, contact Executive Director Susan Korecky at 480-345-7407.



Know somebody who should be getting the Sportsline?
Call the hotLine at 472-0530!

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Rod Lilly begins term as President of MASD

November brought the beginning of Rod Lilly's term as the tenth President in the history of the Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled. He has served on the Board of Directors for three years, prior to assuming the leadership position. Rod is a familiar face at MASD events. He is a fixture at most East Valley Special Olympic events, a common sight at our Wheelchair Sports events and always present at MASD fundraisers. Lilly is a 24 year veteran of the Mesa Fire Department and currently serves as Battalion Chief.

I would like to introduce myself to everyone with the Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled. I am Rod Lilly and I will be the new Board President for 2001. I became involved in working with special needs populations fifteen years ago when I began volunteering with the students at Parkway School. I became even more involved when I started dating my wife, Sue, who was a teacher at the school at the time. I have continued to be involved with Special Olympics and Wheelchair Sports since that time.

Before I start outlining my goals and views for the upcoming year, I want to highlight the events of the past year. I feel that MASD had a very successful year in 2000 and want to thank all of the Board Members and their spouses for the outstanding job they did throughout the year. A special thanks needs to be extended to Richard Smith, the outgoing President, for the great job he performed and the service he provided the Association. We can't forget the coaches for all the hard work and dedication they provide our athletes and Executive Directors Gregg Baumgarten and Mark Grant for a job well done! Last but certainly not least, I want to recognize the athletes of the Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled. I am always very proud of how our athletes represent Mesa and the Association at all competitions and in all arenas. And, they have so much fun doing it! Thanks to all for everything you have given the Association in 2000! Let's continue on in 2001!

My goals as President of MASD for 2001 are as follows: 1) to increase athlete, parent and teacher involvement in the Association 2). to increase athlete participation in our programs, and 3). to have all board members involved in the Fall Round-up, Awards Banquet and one athletic event this year. I look forward to serving as the new President of the Association; we have a great Board of Directors and should have an outstanding year in 2001! Everyone can be a winner, even if they don't finish in first place and "Let no one sit on the sidelines". I'm looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Rod Lilly
MASD President



Schureman Receives Award!

Steve Schureman, a longtime volunteer with the Association, recently was named the recipient of the Charles K. Luster Spirit of Caring Award. The award is given each year to a City of Mesa employee who demonstrates community spirit and caring by donating their time and talents to organizations within Mesa. Schureman is a firefighter with the city assigned to Station 15 at the Williams Gateway Airport. Anyone involved with the Association's Desert Challenge knows how much Steve deserves this award! He is responsible for securing and coordinating all volunteers for the three day event. It is not unusual for Schureman to arrive at 6:00 AM and leave at midnight. When the Association hosted the Wheelchair Sports Junior National Championships in 1997, Schureman was logging twenty hour workdays for seven straight days! He was the chairperson of the firefighter's charitable golf tournament, from which part of the proceeds went to MASD. He also volunteers with the Boy Scouts and youth groups, teaching safety, rappelling and drug awareness. Steve serves as a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician at a kid's camp and has served as a board member for the Child Crisis Center for the past 4 years! Congratulations Steve; you have been an Association hero for a long time!

MASD Welcomes New Board Members

The Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled would like to welcome three new Board Members elected to three year terms at the November annual meeting. John Alig is a parent of a Special Olympian and a familiar face at MASD activities. Alig has taken an active role in the Association's Special Olympic programs, including being a member of MASD's Unified Bowling Teams, combining Special Olympic participants with non-disabled teammates. Alig is an executive with Spectrum Products of Phoenix. Another new Board Member who is a familiar face in Special Olympics circles is Ray Libonati. "Coach Ray" has been very active in coaching several Special Olympic teams, including the golf and basketball teams. Libonati became involved in Special Olympics since moving from New Jersey through his sister, "Coach Suzy" Jacobsen, a longtime MASD coach. Libonati is a construction engineer with the firm of Hunt Construction. Finally, Denny Rausch is the third Board Member elected to the Association's Board of Directors. A relative newcomer to the world of Disabled Sports, Rausch has already provided the Board with several excellent ideas for funding! Rausch works for MD Helicopters in Mesa. Welcome to our three new Board Members; we are happy to have you aboard!

MASD Thanks Smith, Whalen

October brought the end of Richard Smith's term as President of the Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled. "Coach Rich" has been very active in Association activities for several years, including assisting in coaching Special Olympics soccer for the past nine years. Smith's leadership was vital as the Association reached several milestones, including the hiring of it's first part time administrative assistant. Richard will continue to serve on the Board of Directors. Mike Whalen, a longtime Board Member, opted to not run for reelection this fall. Whalen has been actively involved in the Association since 1993, most notably through his company, Newline Products. Mike can always be counted on to provide quality service and products at a very reasonable price and has pledged to continue his commitment to the Association.

A big Association thank you to both Richard and Mike for their commitment over the years!



Don't Forget to Register for Spring Sports on January 16th or 17th
and get a free T-shirt! More info on Page 1.

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Another Big Success for Fall Round-up!

The annual Fall Round-up for the Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled was a big success again this year. Held every year at the Confederate Air Force Museum in Mesa, the Fall Round-up is the major fundraiser for the Association. Money raised at this event funds the Association programs throughout the year. Emcee Ron Hoon oversaw the festivities, including dinner by Taylor Rae's Executive Catering and dancing to the music of the Mesa Hohokam Band! A big Association thank you needs to go to the Trail Bosses for this year's Round-up, Board Members John Krecek and John Hughes. The effort these two put forth in planning and organizing this event was phenomenal! And, as everyone knows, behind every great man is an even greater woman! Deb Krecek and Linda Hughes were tireless in their efforts to secure silent and open auction items, plan the dinner, and organize all the events. Their hard work and dedication were very evident throughout the evening.

One highlight of the evening was the live auction, which featured an autographed Sammy Sosa Chicago Cubs uniform from the 66 home run season, courtside and luxury box seats to the Phoenix Suns and a 1988 Cherry Red Chrysler LeBaron convertible. In addition, the drawing of raffle tickets for a GEM street legal electric golf car took place. A special Association thanks to Charles and Barbara Ploetz from Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin for the donation of the Chrysler LeBaron; Ray and Michelle Libonati of Mesa for securing the Suns tickets, Greg Marsh of Mesa for the donation of the electric car and Jim Wright of Pulte Homes for obtaining the Sammy Sosa jersey. An event such as this would not be possible without the support and involvement of many corporations and local businesses. The Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled wishes to thank the following for their generous support of sports and recreation for the disabled:

Platinum Sponsor: **Pulte Home Corporation-Active Adult Division**

Gold Sponsors: **DevCon Commercial Builders, Inc.** **Haskins Electric**
JFK Electric **Grinnell-Skyline**

Silver Sponsors:

Arizona Lighting Sales	Arizona Wholesale	Bjerk Builders, Inc.
Tom Cavanaugh & Co.	Delta Diversified	First American Title
Golka Electric	Kirch Construction, Inc.	KTM Construction
L & S Enterprises	Mesa FireFighters Local 2260	MVC Concrete
Realty Executives	MountainView Memorial Gardens	ReMax 2000
Rusk & Heard	Randall's VIP Trailers, Inc.	Sundt Construction
M.R. Tanner Construction	Southwest Architectural Builders	

In addition, the Association wishes to thank the numerous local businesses and individuals who donated to the silent auction (See Page 15). Everyone attending can attest to the variety and quality of golf packages, resort stays, restaurant meals, sports memorabilia, etc. Trail Bosses John Krecek and John Hughes are already working on Fall Round-up 2001, so mark your calendars for Saturday, October 6 at the Good Life Resort. See you there!



Program Set to Start at Mesa & Westwood

Mesa Parks, Recreation and Cultural Division announced the start of an after school sports and recreation pilot program for Mesa High and Westwood High beginning the spring semester of 2001. Mesa Parks & Rec, in association with Mesa Public Schools and Mesa Sports for Disabled, is offering an after school program for Special Education students in self-contained classes at Mesa High, Westwood High and their feeder Junior Highs. The feeder Junior Highs would include Mesa Junior, Taylor Junior and Brimhall Junior for Mesa High; and Powell Junior, Carson Junior and Kino Junior for Westwood High. The way the program would work is High School Special Ed students registered for the program would report to the designated program room on campus at 3:05 dismissal. Junior High students registered for the program would be transported by MPS transportation from their respective junior high schools to their designated high school site (either Mesa High or Westwood, as noted above) at their Junior High dismissal time. Program leaders, assistants and volunteers would be assigned to provide either after school sports opportunities, such as Special Olympic soccer, basketball, tennis or track & field; recreation opportunities such as racquetball, volleyball; or leisure activities, such as arts & crafts; depending on the preference of the participant. Pick up from the program will be the responsibility of the parent at 5:15 PM. There will be no fee for this program. The reasons for offering this program to parents are:

1. To provide an opportunity for secondary Special Education students in the Mesa Public Schools to participate in Special Olympic sports which are school-based, giving the athlete a chance to represent their school in competition and promote school spirit. This is in keeping with the Association's philosophy that Special Olympics is competitive sports, not a one time field day. Special Olympics should be an extra-curricular activity, not a classroom or PE activity, in the same way as any high school's football team or marching band. If this pilot program is successful, it is the intent of Mesa Parks & Rec, Mesa Public Schools and the Association to offer this after school program at all six MPS high schools and their feeder junior highs, providing all secondary Special Ed students in MPS with the opportunity to participate in Special Olympic sports while representing their schools. MASD would like nothing better than to host a City of Mesa Special Olympics Soccer, Track or Basketball Tournament where each of the six MPS high schools was represented!
2. To offer secondary Special Education students not interested in participating in Special Olympics with quality leisure time activities and education.
3. To provide working parents with a quality after school care program for special needs students.

Responsibilities of the Parent & Student:

1. The participant must commit to five days a week of after school programming. Transportation cannot be provided to different locations on alternating days. Registration means a five day a week commitment.
2. The participant must be picked up promptly at 5:15 PM by their parent.

Registration materials will be coming home from the schools listed above. For more information on this program, call Deanna Zuppan at 480-644-3652.



Davis Outstanding in Paralympics!

Troy Davis, a Mesa High grad and former MASD athlete currently attending the University of Arizona, competed in the recently completed Paralympic Games in Sydney, Australia and did an outstanding job against some of the finest athletes in the world. Davis took eighth place in the 100 Meter dash for T-4 wheelchair athletes, twentieth place in the 200 Meter dash, and his 4 X 100 Meter Relay team took fourth place. Troy indicated that the Europeans, Asians and Australians were very tough and deep in the sprint events. Although personally disappointed with his performance, Davis indicated that the overall Paralympic experience was incredible. He pointed out that the Track & Field venues in Australia averaged over 80,000 spectators a day, something unheard of in Paralympics history. Many Australians indicated more interest in attending the Paralympic Games than the Olympic Games. In fact, given the difficulties that the Greeks have been experiencing in hosting the 2004 Games, there is a lot of talk about Australia hosting the Paralympics again in 2004. Troy wound up the month of November by attending a reception for U. S. Paralympic athletes in the White House Rose Garden with President and Mrs. Clinton and several dignitaries. Not bad for a kid from Glade Street in Mesa!



Disabled Sports Workshop a Huge Success

The Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled, in association with St. Joseph's Hospital/Barrow's Neurological Institute, hosted the second annual Disabled Sports Workshop on December 2nd at Dobson High School in Mesa. The objective of the workshop is to provide individuals with physical and/or sensory impairments with information on resources and organizations in the Valley providing sports and recreation opportunities to the disabled. Over 200 physically disabled individuals browsed booths demonstrating sports and recreation such as track and road racing; table tennis; archery; boccia and bowling; wheelchair hockey; fishing; river rafting; ice skating and downhill skiing. Demonstrations were given on power soccer; wheelchair football; wheelchair basketball; tennis; golf and over the line softball. In addition, America West Airlines had sponsored a booth to address travel questions, issues and concerns of the disabled. A special thanks to Principal Steve Green and Dobson High School for hosting this event despite their busy schedule. Also, a big thanks to Jo Lemons and her staff at the Therapeutic Rec department at Barrows Neurological Institute for their efforts in making the Disabled Sports Workshop a success. Finally, a big thanks to all of the exhibitors, including America West Airlines, Leeden Wheelchair Lift & Sport, Old Mission Bay Athletic Club of San Diego, City of Phoenix Parks & Recreation and the Samaritan Suns Wheelchair Basketball Team. Look for another clinic in the fall of 2001!

Athletes, Parents, Coaches, Teachers, Volunteers interested in receiving the SportsLine Newsletter via Email in pdf format should email Gregg Baumgarten at gjbaumga@mpsaz.org.



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SkiAble Clinic Set for SunRise

SkiAble 2001 is set for the weekend of January 25th through the 28th at Arizona SunRise Ski Resort in McNary. Adapted ski instructors from the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center (BOEC) in Colorado are again scheduled to come down to SunRise to provide their expertise, equipment and know-how in teaching down-hill skiing to individuals with disabilities. SkiAble provides an opportunity to learn how to ski using a variety of adapted equipment, depending on the disability and skill level. The equipment includes mono-skis, bi-skis, outriggers, ski bras and other adapted equipment. Mono-skis and bi-skis are forms of sit-ski apparatus for individuals who are paraplegic or quadriplegic. They have a bucket seating system with a suspension which, when used with ski equipped poles, enables a wheelchair user to ski. The bi-ski is a bucket system mounted on two skis while the mono-ski version is mounted on one ski and presents more challenges. Bi-skis also have the flexibility of being mounted with outriggers, similar to outrigger canoes used in the south Pacific, and tethers, enabling the highest level injury to enjoy skiing without fear of falling. Amputees and persons with Cerebral Palsy are often able to ski using a three or four track system, which incorporates regular skis with ski poles outfitted with tiny skis. Gary Wilde, the director of the SunRise Ski School, has committed his instructors and resources towards making this activity a success again this year. Ski reservations are available for Friday, January 26th; Saturday, January 27th; and Sunday, January 28th. The registration cost is \$30 which covers the equipment and instruction. The ski lift pass is an additional charge to the skier. Transportation, meals, lodging and personal care are also the responsibility of the skier. To reserve a slot for the SkiAble weekend, call Gregg Baumgarten at 480-472-0638 or email him at gjbaumga@mpsaz.org. Reservations are limited to one day, depending on demand.

Desert Challenge Games to be Divided

Because of the popularity of the Desert Challenge Games, the 2001 version will be divided into two separate events. During spring break, March 16th and 17th, Power Soccer and Boccia tournaments will be held at Dobson High School in Mesa. The Power Soccer tournament has grown greatly in popularity the last couple of years, making it necessary to set up a separate tournament. Many of the Power Soccer participants also are Boccia players, so combining the two sports was a logical step. As of press time, we have had inquiries from ten teams from throughout the United States regarding the Power Soccer tournament, demonstrating the growing popularity of the sport. Power Soccer is a sport for athletes who use power wheelchairs. A heavy duty plastic footguard is attached to the footrest and a 48 inch soccer ball is used. The athletes can only use their chairs to move or block the ball. Boccia is a type of lawn bowling which can be played either by individuals or in team competition. Rules allow athletes with upper body limitations to utilize a specially designed ramp to roll the ball.

The Desert Challenge Games will be held on Thursday, April 19th through Saturday, April 21st at Mesa High School. The Games will include competition in Track & Field, Swimming, Archery, Table Tennis, Cycling and Weightlifting. The Desert Challenge will again serve as a qualifying meet for national competition. This year marks the 12th anniversary of the modern Desert Challenge Games, although Disabled Sports competition has been held in Mesa since 1983.



Sports for Physically Disabled

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Goal Ball is Very Popular

Goal Ball has become a very popular sport for our visually impaired and blind athletes. Coach Tom Brew reports that approximately 12 athletes have been practicing regularly on Thursday evenings at Lowell Elementary School. Recently, a "Goal Ball Conclave" was held at Dobson High School and included teams from Prescott, Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind in Tucson and MASD. The morning consisted of a clinic for the attendees. Coach Spencer Peterson from the University of Arizona Goal Ball team was on hand to provide instruction to the athletes, coaches, parents and volunteers. The afternoon was spent in competition, with teams competing in round robin games and athletes rotating in and out. All competitors received a certificate for their efforts.

Goal Ball is a team sport which is played on a gymnasium floor. The ball used in goal ball is the approximate size of a basketball but is made of hard rubber, is hollowed, perforated and contains several jingle bells. When the ball is rolled, the ball makes an audible noise which can be tracked. Teams line up on opposite sides of the gym and roll the ball towards the opponents. The defense tries to listen for the ball and block it with their bodies before it crosses the goal. The offense scores a point every time the ball crosses the goal line.

Coach Brew indicated that the Southwest Regional Tournament for USABA (United States Association of Blind Athletes) Goalball Tournament will be held at the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind in Tucson in May. Look for the Mesa Association of Sports for Disabled to be represented at the Southwest Regional Tournament!

What is Sports for the Physically Disabled?

For More Information

Wheelchair Sports, USA
(719) 574-1150
www.wsusa.com

Disabled Sports, USA
(301) 217-0968
www.dsusa.com

US Cerebral Palsy
Athletic Association
(401) 848-2460
www.uscpaa.org

US Association of
Blind Athletes
(719) 630-0422
www.usaba.org

US Les Autres
Sports Association
(713) 521-3737

The Sports for Physically Disabled program is designed for athletes ages 6 and older who have an orthopedic, neurological or sensory impairment. This could include (but not be limited to) Spina Bifida, Spinal Cord Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury, Osteogenesis Imperfecta, Amputee, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Cerebral Palsy and Blindness. As a general rule, Physically Disabled athletes still in school are those in the regular classrooms or the Orthopedically Impaired classrooms (OI). The Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled is affiliated with several national organizations whose primary purpose is to provide sporting opportunities to individuals with physical disabilities. These include Wheelchair Sports, USA (Spina Bifida & Spinal Cord Injured), Disabled Sports, USA (Amputee), United States Cerebral Palsy Sports Association (CP, Traumatic Brain Injury), United States Les Autres Sports Association (Arthritis, Neuro-Muscular Diseases) and United States Association of Blind Athletes. Sports training and competition are offered in season and occur year round. Sports currently offered by MASD include Swimming, Bowling, Wheelchair Basketball, Power Soccer, Weightlifting, Archery, Table Tennis, Cycling, Track & Field and Boccia. For more information on each of these organizations you can call the listed number or look up the web address on the internet.

Sports for Physically Disabled

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Bowling Season Winding Down

Coaches Tami Stevens and Callee Powell report an excellent bowling season this year. Eighteen bowlers have been meeting on Saturdays at the Mesa AMF lanes on Southern and Gilbert to improve their bowling scores. On Saturday, December 16th, a Bowling Tournament was held at Mesa Lanes to showcase the bowlers skills. Competitors used a variety of adapted bowling equipment, including ramps with electronic release, manual ramps, push-sticks, snap-handle bowling balls and other equipment. After the competition, a pizza party/awards ceremony was held at Eatza Pizza. One more competition is set for January in Tucson. Good job and good luck to the bowlers!

Track & Field Starts in February

Track & Field practice for athletes with physical impairments is set to start on Saturday, February 3rd at 9:30 AM at Mesa High School track. These practices are designed for athletes with any type of physical disability, whether they use a wheelchair or are ambulatory. Also, athletes with sensory impairments are encouraged to participate. Track events include the 50, 100, 200 and 400 meter dashes; 1500 meter and 5000 meter distance events. For Field events, the athlete can compete in shot put, discus, javelin and long jump. Specialized Field events include the club throw, soft shot, soft disc, softball throw and other events. Eligibility to compete in certain events is contingent on the athlete's age and classification. Possible competitions for this year include the Desert Challenge Games in April, the Far West Regionals in San Jose in May and the Junior Nationals in New Jersey in July. Don't forget to register on January 16th or 17th at the Student Services Center.

Adapted Archery

The Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled is again offering Archery for athletes who are physically disabled only. Practice will begin on Saturday, February 3 from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM at Mesa High School. The program is designed for athletes ages 8 and up. Distances shot are from 10 meters to 50 meters, depending on the child's age level and ability. Archers can use either conventional recurve bows, compound bows or adapted bowstands which can be attached to an athlete's wheelchair. Competitions include the Desert Challenge Games and Far West Regional Games.

Boccia for the Physically Disabled

Boccia for the Physically Disabled will be offered on Monday evenings this year beginning January 22 at 6:30 PM in the Mesa High School Cafeteria. Competition will be for both ramp and non-ramp divisions; ramp division is designed for those athletes who do not have the physical ability to roll the ball independently but are able to direct the alignment of the ramp and non-ramp division is for athletes who can roll the ball independently. Boccia is an excellent sport for teaching concepts and language skills, and can be very competitive!



Sports for Physically Disabled

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Swimming Set to Start

Swimming for the physically disabled will begin on Saturday, February 3 at 12:30 PM at Kino Pool, on Home between University and Brown Rds. in Mesa. Coaches Brian and Jen Hanna will be setting up individual workouts for athletes designed to improve their stroke, endurance and speed. This is competitive swimming and individuals interested in swim lessons should call Mesa Parks & Rec in May. Athletes should be able to swim 25 meters without stopping consistently. Athletes should be at least 8 years of age.

Spring Schedule for Physically Disabled Sports

January 16 & 17	Registration for Spring Disabled Sports (Page 1) Student Services Center
January 22	Boccia Practice.....Mesa High (Page 9)
January 25 to 28	SkiAble Weekend.....SunRise Ski Resort (Page 7)
February 3	Archery Practice.....Mesa High (Page 9)
February 3	Track & Field Practice.....Mesa High (Page 9)
February 3	Swimming Practice.....Kino Pool (Page 10)
March 16 & 17	Power Soccer/Boccia Tourney.....Dobson High (Page 7)
April 5 (tentative)	AZODA Victory Games.....Tucson
April 19 to 21	Desert Challenge Games.....Mesa High (Page 7)
May 4 & 5	Far West Wheelchair Games.....San Jose, CA
May 12	Multi-Ability Swim Meet.....San Diego, CA
July, 2001	WSUSA Jr. Nationals.....Rutgers, NJ

Don't forget to register for spring sports on January 16th or 17th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Student Services Center and get a free MASD T-shirt!

Special Olympics Events

Page 11



Unified Team does well under veteran coaches!

Unified Bowling had a very successful season under the direction and tutelage of coaches Rosemary Joiner and Rosie Kuhse. Anyone who has been involved in the bowling program for the last twelve years know Rosemary and Rosie and are aware of the wonderful job they do! This year 45 bowlers practiced each week for several competitions, including the East Valley Area Special Olympic Tournament in Chandler and the ASO State Bowling Tournament in Tucson. Unified Bowling combines Special Olympians with non-disabled partners who team up to compete against other unified teams. Congratulations on a great job and keep up the good work!

Bowling More Popular than Ever!

The MASD Special Olympics Bowling program has become more popular than ever, with over 80 athletes now bowling on a regular basis. The bowling alley at Apache Lanes is full on Wednesday afternoons with Special Olympic bowlers working on improving their averages. Competitions include the East Valley Special Olympic Tournament and the ASO State Bowling Tournament. The athletes looked especially sharp at the competitions in their MASD bowling shirts and represented the Association well. Good job athletes!

What is Special Olympics?

Special Olympics is a sports training and competition program founded by the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation for athletes ages 8 and over who are mentally disabled. There is no maximum age limit on participation. Our local Special Olympics program is part of Arizona Special Olympics, the state chapter charged with providing year-round sports training and competition to our athletes. The sports occur during their respective seasons, much the same as high school athletics has sports seasons.

Sports offered locally by MASD include Swimming & Diving, Golf, Soccer, Bowling, Cycling, Weightlifting, Basketball, Cheerleading, Tennis, Softball, Track & Field and, most recently, Bocce. Special Olympics is designed specifically for students and adults whose primary disability is mental retardation. Many of our Special Olympic athletes also have physical disabilities and Special Olympics recognizes this fact, providing sports and events designed specifically for athletes who are both mentally and physically disabled. As a general rule, if your 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 Special Olympics.

The only requirements for participation in Special Olympics are a current medical examination conducted within the last three years. There is no cost for Special Olympics events, with the exception of game fees for Bowling. For more information on Special Olympic programs, or to obtain a Special Olympics medical examination form, call the hotline at 472-0530.



Special Olympic Events

Page 12

Swimming wraps up great season

The MASD Special Olympics Swim season was very successful this year under the direction of first year coaches Brian & Jen Hanna. Swimmers practiced throughout the summer and fall for a competition in Flagstaff, the East Valley Swim Meet in Mesa and the ASO Fall Championships in Scottsdale. Approximately 35 athletes were dedicated to improving their endurance and time. Congratulations to Coaches Hanna and the athletes for a job well-done!

Bocce's first year proves to be big success!

The MASD Bocce team proved to be very popular with Special Olympians as almost 30 junior and adult athletes competed in the sport for the first time. This program would not have been possible without the good folks at Dreamland Villa in Mesa who hosted and helped coach the athletes each week at their bocce courts. Credit MASD executive director Mark Grant with coming up with the idea of asking Dreamland Villa if they would be willing to help. He was driving by the retirement community one day and saw several residents playing bocce on their courts. He gave them a call and they welcomed the Association and our Special Olympians with open arms! Coach Brett Petersen was responsible for making sure the athletes knew the strategies and rules. The rules for Special Olympics Bocce are a little different from the rules used by our Sports for Cerebral Palsy athletes, including the spelling of the sport. The consistent thing is the fun and competition enjoyed by all the athletes!

Special Olympics Soccer ends season in Tucson

The Special Olympics Soccer season ended on a high note in Tucson the first weekend of December. Coaches Rachel Shea and Rich Smith took their teams to the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind to compete against teams from throughout the state of Arizona. The teams competed hard and did a good job in each of their divisions. Competitions were held in age divisions and also included soccer skills competition for some athletes. Coach Rich had to pick up some of the load as Coach Rachel is expecting twins in April and wasn't moving too quickly. Congratulations to the team and congratulations and good luck to Coach Rachel!

Special Olympics Year Round Bowling Slated to Start

The Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled is offering year round bowling and is scheduled to begin Wednesday, January 17 from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM at the Apache Lanes on the northeast corner of Home and Main St. This program is a continuation of the fall bowling season and will enable athletes to keep their games sharp and also enable all the friends to keep in touch. For athletes new to bowling, registration will be required on either Tuesday, January 16 or Wednesday, January 17 at the Student Services Center (See Special Olympics schedule). The cost for the bowling program is \$3.50 for two games and shoes. If you have questions regarding the continuation of the bowling program, give Deanna Zuppan a call at 644-3652.

Special Olympics Events

Page 13



Special Olympics Basketball Set to Go!

Special Olympics basketball is set to begin Monday, January 22 at Poston Junior High School, on Adobe between Gilbert and Lindsay Rds. in Mesa. Practice is set to begin at 6:30 PM. Special Olympics basketball is divisioned according to athlete's age and ability level. All athletes will meet at Poston for several days of practice and then be divided into their appropriate teams. In addition, basketball skills are offered for athletes who are not ready for team competition but wish to participate in a basketball event. Competitions include the East Valley Special Olympics Basketball Tourney and the Arizona Special Olympics Basketball Tourney in March. See the Special Olympics calendar for details.

Special Olympics Track & Field Looking for Big Year!

Special Olympics Track & Field is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, February 20 at 6:30 PM at the Mesa High School track. Seniors and Adults (ages 16 years old and older) will practice on Tuesday evenings while Juniors (ages 8 to 15) will practice on Thursday evenings. Track events include the 50, 100, 200, 800 and 1500 meters, plus multiple racewalk distances. Field events include shot put, softball throw, long jump, standing broad jump and high jump. In addition, there are events for athletes who have multiple disabilities (ie. utilizes a wheelchair and is mentally disabled). These include assisted walks, manual wheelchair events, power wheelchair events and specialized field events. Competitions include the East Valley Special Olympics Meet in Mesa on April 27 and the Arizona Special Olympics Summer Games the weekend of May 9 to 11 at Desert Vista High School.

Special Olympics Winter Games Set for February

The Arizona Special Olympics Winter Games are set for the weekend of February 9 to 11 in Flagstaff. The Winter Games include competition in figure skating, speed skating, cross-country skiing and Alpine skiing. Although MASD will not be taking a team to the Winter Games, slots are available to individuals who wish to have their athlete(s) compete at the games. Slots are limited. Call Deanna Zuppan at Mesa Parks & Rec at 644-3652 to indicate an interest in a specific area and she can inquire with the ASO state office to see if slots are available.

Down's Syndrome Athletes should have Neck X-Ray

Medical research has found that approximately 10 to 15 percent of individuals with Down's Syndrome have a condition in their cervical vertebrae called Atlanto-Axial Subluxation. Although not life threatening, this condition can put a person at risk for serious neck injury. Special Olympic athletes with Down's Syndrome participating in Swimming & Diving, Gymnastics or Soccer are particularly at risk. The athlete needs to have a three-view spinal x-ray and radiologic evaluation to determine whether the condition exists. Recent research indicates that this examination should take place whenever a significant growth spurt occurs. For more information on the condition or the examination, call the Arizona Special Olympics office at 230-1200.

Special Olympics Schedule



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Clip and save this schedule for future reference.

January 16 & 17	Spring Sports Registration (See Below) Student Services Center
January 17	Special Olympics Bowling Begins (Page 13) Apache Lanes
January 22	SO Basketball Practice Begins (Page 13) Poston Jr. High
February 9 & 10	Arizona Special Olympics Winter Games (Page 13) Flagstaff
February 20	Special Olympics Track Practice Begins (Page 13) Mesa High School
February 22	Special Olympics Track Practice Begins (Page 13) Mesa High School
March 5,7,9 &10	East Valley Special Olympics Basketball & Cheer Broadway Rec Center
March 30 & 31	Arizona Special Olympics Basketball Tourney Red Mountain High School
April 27	East Valley Special Olympics Track Mesa High School
May 9 to 11	Arizona Special Olympics Summer Games Desert Vista High School

**Don't Forget the Spring Sports Registration
Mesa Public Schools Student Services Center
1025 North Country Club (South of Brown Rd.)
Earn a free T-Shirt for Registering!**

**The Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled
wishes to thank our Fall Round-up Partners for
their generous donations to our fund raiser!**

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Achen-Gardner
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Bumkins
Marie Callendar's
Carolyn Brehaney
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Mahogany Run Restaurant
Matta's Mexican Food
Donna Meeker
Mesa FireFighter's Local 2260
Mesa Southwest Museum
Michael Monti's of Mesa
Mesa Hohokams
N.A.W.I.C.
JoAnn Nelson
Pat & Callan Peters
Phoenician Resort & Spa
Pinetop-Lakeside Country Club
Poppy's Puppies
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Rubio's Baja Grill
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Sleep America
Springfield Golf Resort
Springfield Lakes/Lone Tree Golf Club
Staber Linens
Sweetcakes Cookie Shoppe
T & T Auto Supply/NAPA
Taylor Rae's Executive Catering
TGI Fridays
Toni & Guy Salon
Town Insulation
Triple S Fence
Varsity Clubs of America
Village Inn Pizza
Vito's Pizza Place
Jim Wright

Mark your calendars now for the MASD Annual Awards Banquet
Thursday, May 17
6:30 PM
Mesa Senior Center
247 N. MacDonald



Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled
P.O. Box 4727
Mesa, Arizona 85211-4727

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