

USATF ANNUAL MEETING 2018
Hyatt Regency Hotel – Columbus, OH
11/29/2018 -/02/2018

PARALYMPIC TRACK & FIELD TRAINING

The presentation was an overall view of the Paralympics. This included the designations for participation and the classification of the various disabilities. A number designation is used for each disability, i.e. Visually Impaired T/F 11-13; Intellectual T/F 20; and Age Group Division 4-11 are examples.

The rules for Paralympics are totally different from the regular USATF Rules. Rules for each specific event, age group and disability can be found at the USATF website and at ATFUSA. The type of assist allowed varies from one event to another. Tethers may be used in running events but they cannot exceed 30 cm. If a guide is used as assist, the athlete must cross the finish line before the guide.

In some events, height is a determining factor. There is a MASH (maximum allowable standing height) that must be determined in the 'Call Room' prior to the event. This is important in all running and relay events. Visually Impaired is divided into three categories: totally blind (needs a guide), very limited vision (may use a guide), and moderate impairment (uses a cane).

For an athlete to be classified as Intellectually Impaired, the diagnosis must be made by the age of 18 years.

I think the overall goal of this session was to tweak the interest of officials sufficiently that they would want to become proficient in working with athletes with challenges. The session ended with directing one to the test website: [HTTP://www.cvent.com/d/gtqtet](http://www.cvent.com/d/gtqtet).

SAFESPORT INFORMATIONAL SESSION

This session held true to its title. We were walked through the process of navigating through the USATF website to get to Safesport. Completion of the Safesport training must be done every two years to remain in good standing with USATF. If a problem develops with an official at any time, the Safesport Organization informs USATF of any suspension levied against that official. All investigations and decision determinations are solely the responsibility of Safesport. USATF's responsibility is to inform members of the organization who those persons are and the status of the case against them. USATF has no facts about the case. USATF is only a conduit of information from Safesport.

A complaint can be registered by anyone, coach, official, parent using the proper form that goes directly to Safesport.