

# 2017 USATF Annual Committee Meeting for Para Athletic

Thom Confer reviewed the year's activities. The first ever *Jr. Para Athletic Track & Field Championships* held July 2017 in Madison, WI. The championship was successful. In 2018 *Jr. Para Athletic Track & Field Championships* will be held July in Fort Wayne, IN.

There were several discussions on What to do for *Para Athletic*:

- Need for general information for the association.
- Best Practices for training.
- There is an untapped market for the *Para Athletic* Community for membership within the USATF.
- A ten-year plan has been started by Thom Confer. Where do you want to go to grow the sport?
- USATF Track and Field Meets should be inclusive for Youth, Open and Masters.
- Para Athletic need their own website.
- Educational Classes for coaches and officials.
- Flyers could be sent to the school about *Para Athletic*.
- Need funds from USATF Olympic Committee.

It was suggested that *Para Athletic* should participate in Shape America Conference in 2018. This would be a great marketing tool. Also, that this committee needs to utilize social media to attract Para Athletes to USATF Meets.

The National *Federal High School* (NFHS) and *United States Olympic Committee* (USOC) has the *Best Practice* available on their website for Para Athletes.

Latonya Salley-Sharif volunteered to be Treasure for this Committee.

Caroll Coram volunteered to be Secretary for this Committee.

A quarterly phone call will be set up by committee chair with an agenda prior to phone call.

Also, a google drive account will be set up as a resource for *Para Athletic* related information.

Any meets that *Para Athletes* participate in should be Inclusive and forwarded to the USOC.

## **U.S. Paralympic Track and Field is for athletes with disabilities.**

1. Visually Impaired- *Blind to severe Impairment.*
2. Intellectually Impaired- *IQ below 75.*
3. Cerebral Palsy- *Wheelchair and Ambulatory*
4. Dwarf- *Throws only.*
5. Amputees- *Arms, Legs and Brachial Plexus.*
6. Spinal Cord Injuries and Spinal Bifida -*Wheelchair and Ambulatory.*
7. Impaired range of *motion* and *muscle power.*

[www.tramusa.org/US-Paralympics/Sports/Track-and-Field](http://www.tramusa.org/US-Paralympics/Sports/Track-and-Field)

Follow on Facebook: USPSParaTrackandField

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Organization:

[www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org)

[www.paralympic.org/athletics](http://www.paralympic.org/athletics)

[www.bestbuddies.org](http://www.bestbuddies.org)

*Brenda Y. Martin*

*USATF-Ohio Membership Chair*

*Wednesday December 13, 2017*