

DISABILITIES ALLIES 2019 UPDATES

December 1, 2019



UNITED
SOCCER COACHES

ADVOCACY. EDUCATION. SERVICE.

Disabilities Allies Group Information:

Mission Statement:

The Disability Allies Group is dedicated to providing resources and information, raising awareness, and creating a community for coaches of athletes with disabilities and coaches with disabilities to share experiences and ideas.

About the group:

The group was established in 2016 with the intention of advocating for and raising awareness for coaches with disabilities and coaches of players with disabilities.

The group aims to provide information and resources for the coaching community, specifically group members. Disability Allies looks to promote conversations between coaches with disabilities and those without disabilities, as well as coaches of players with disabilities. It also aims to benefit coaches and members who are curious about various disabilities and how to best coach players with disabilities.

Goals:

1. Identify and recruit people who are passionate about and represent different types of disabilities
2. Gather and provide information about disabilities to members

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Hi everyone! Hope you all had a wonderful 2019. With the year wrapping up, I wanted to send a quick message to thank you all for your support over the past year. My goal for our group in 2020 is to find a more effective way for our group members to contribute. This is something we will discuss at our group's meeting at the Convention in January. If you are in Baltimore, please attend and help us plan out the next year and continue our group's development.

With that being said, thank you for your commitment to inclusion through disability soccer. Your support helps coaches and athletes just like me. It's hard to put into words the effect that sports has had on my life as someone with a disability. Inclusion. Strength. Normalcy. Empowerment. Participation in sports often levels out the playing field for all. It gives freedom, ignites joy, fosters inclusion, and builds self-confidence in ways that can't be replicated off the field and away from teammates, a uniform, and a ball.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to this group! Happy Holidays!

Kate Ward, wardka3@yahoo.com

2019 HAPPENINGS IN US DISABILITY SOCCER:

United Soccer Coaches Online Module Development:

We are excited to share our group's progress on an online e-Learning course that is set to launch next year. The course's goal is to educate coaches on various disabilities and to give them tools to successfully include players with disabilities. If you'll be at the Convention, please stop by our open meeting to hear more about the module's development!

US Paralympic National Team:

The 7-a-side National Team won the bronze medal at the Parapan American Games in August. This was the program's first Parapan medal. Their success is a continued trend as they placed third at the 2018 IFCPF America's Championship in Ecuador and sixth at the 2019 IFCPF World Cup in Spain!

US Deaf National Teams:

The Men's team went 4-0 at the PANAMDES in November, winning their first international event! This also ensured their qualification for the 2020 Deaf World Cup and 2021 Deaflympics. The Women's team continues to train in preparation for the 2020 and 2021 cycles, having already qualified for these vents.

US Power Team:

The US Power team had a successful showing at the America's Cup in Brazil in August, which helped them qualify for the 2021 World Cup. The team is already preparing for this 2021 event, which will be held in Australia.

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2019 HAPPENINGS IN US DISABILITY SOCCER (CONTINUED):

US Youth TOPSOCCER:

US Youth Soccer will hold its first ever national TOPSoccer Coaches Symposium at the Pinnacle National Training Center in Kansas City, Kansas on March 27-29, 2020. The symposium will highlight various speakers on numerous topics related to adaptive soccer programming. Our coaching certification course will be offered along with social and networking events. A “walking soccer” tournament for attendees will be added for the first time as well. Registration is free and is open to anyone from any organization. Please visit www.usyouthsoccer.com/topsoccer for more details.

Paralympic Development Program partnership with ODP and Shirley Ryan Ability:

Illinois Youth Soccer, the state affiliate for US Youth Soccer, will be partnering with the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab in Chicago to co-host 4 Paralympic soccer clinics in 2020 to youth players in the Chicago area. The focus of the clinics will be to teach soccer skills and identify players for Paralympic Teams at various age levels. Those wishing to pursue team training will be offered a similar training format as the traditional Olympic Development Program (ODP) and will play competitive games using the Paralympic 7v7 format. Please contact doc@illinoisyouthsoccer.org if you want more information or know anyone who might be eligible to participate. A huge shout out to our very own member, Shawn Danhouser for taking the lead on this exciting initiative!

CP Soccer International Youth Festival 2020

CP Soccer US announced the first every international CP tournament for young players to be held in the US. The event will be in July 2020 in New Jersey, and teams from Europe will also be participating. Visit www.cpsoccer.us/festival-2020 for more information!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2019 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNER, CHRIS FINN!

Finn was the head coach of the United States Power Soccer Team that won the 2007 and 2011 FIPFA World Cups, the 2013 FIPFA U-18 Championships and the 2014 FIPFA Copa America Championships. He also served as vice president with the FIPFA international governing body for the sport from 2006-2013. Chris has also coached two United States Power Soccer Association President Cup Championships in 2014 and 2011. He suffered a freak fall in 1992 while in college that caused vertebra damage and paralysis. He later moved to California and discovered power soccer, quickly able to play and coach internationally with a power wheelchair. He now is an advocate for athletes with disabilities and a motivational speaker, inspiring hundreds of individuals and attracting attention to the abilities and needs nationally and internationally.

Congratulations Chris, we are excited to have such a wonderful recipient for our group's award!



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GET READY FOR THE 2020 BALTIMORE CONVENTION!

Recommended Sessions:

- **Disability Allies Open Meeting** – Thursday, January 16
 - 1:30 – 2:30pm in CC 303
- **Coaching Players with Disabilities** - Friday, January 17
 - Session with USPNT's Stuart Sharp and Seth Jahn and USDWNT's Amy Griffin and Kate Ward
 - 11:00am – 12:00pm in CC 327
- **Our Stories: Obstacles, Challenges, Triumphs** – Friday, January 17
 - Our group will be represented by 2019 Award of Excellence winner, Lauren Gregg.
 - 3:15 – 4:30pm in CC 327
- **Advocacy Hour** – Friday, January 17
 - 4:30 – 5:30pm in CC Grand Ballroom Foyer
- **TOPSoccer: A State Administrator's View** – Saturday, January 18
 - Panel discussion with administrators from various state affiliates from around the country including Rick Meana, Tucker Reynolds, Rick Flores, Jen Fickett, Meghan Ward
 - 11:00am – 12:00pm in TBA
- **Voy! Blind Soccer Programs for Youth Players** – Saturday, January 18
 - Presentation by Timothy Taylor from Maryland School for the Blind
 - 1:30 – 2:30pm in TBA

For more information on the Convention and how to register visit www.unitedsoccercoachesconvention.org

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN BEING INVOLVED WITH DISABILITIES ALLIES, PLEASE CONTACT KATE WARD AT
WARDKA3@YAHOO.COM