

# **Move United**

## **Adaptive Sports USA and Disabled Sports USA Merger**

### **Q and A for Adaptive Sports USA Membership**

*(Please note this process is an evolution and members will receive updates as they are available)*

#### **MOVE UNITED: GENERAL OVERVIEW**

##### ***Why did Adaptive Sports USA and Disabled Sports USA decide to merge and create a new brand?***

With 110 years of combined adaptive sports experience, the merger of Adaptive Sports USA and Disabled Sports USA unifies community-based adaptive sports under one national organization, bringing recreational and competitive adaptive sports together.

##### ***What are the benefits to the Paralympic and adaptive sports movement of the two organizations joining forces?***

For the 200+ chapter members of Move United, this merger will mean being a part of a more powerful, prominent national network that will lead to increased support and opportunities. For youth and adults with disabilities, this merger will bring increased awareness and participation in adaptive sports. Combined, the network serves 100,000 individuals with disabilities, and through the merger, this number will increase.

##### ***What does the future look like for Move United?***

It fits with where we plan to take the movement in the coming years and coincides with laying out a collective vision for our future. Vision2028 is an ambitious strategy to grow community-based adaptive sports so that 90% of the U.S. population is within a drive of one of Move United's chapters. Based on the experience in Great Britain, following the London 2012 Games, we can expect that the 2028 Paralympics in the U.S. will drive a new generation of participants and allies seeking opportunity through our member network.

##### ***How will the history of the organizations be honored?***

A collective history will be created for Move United from the rich history of both Adaptive Sports USA and Disabled Sports USA. Two Board members, staff to include Susan Rossi, Shelli Fazzini and Jessie Cloy, and committee members will remain intact. Adaptive Sports USA is seeking a small group of dedicated individuals that have been with the organization throughout the years that will continue to be active with awards and preserving and highlighting our history. To lead that charge, please contact Susan Rossi at [director@adaptivesportsusa.org](mailto:director@adaptivesportsusa.org). The Adaptive Sports USA Hall of Fame will remain intact.

May 4, 2020

### ***Will the Adaptive Sports USA Board of Directors join the Move United Board of Directors?***

The Move United Board will consist of the current 9 members of the Disabled Sports USA Board, which includes two chapter members and two athletes. Two additional members nominated by the Adaptive Sports USA Board will be added with the merger.

### ***When will the merger take place?***

The merger and new brand will be announced on May 4, 2020. The merger will be complete by December 31, 2020.

### **MOVE UNITED: MEMBERSHIP**

#### ***What are the chapter member benefits moving forward?***

Many benefits will be added and/or enhanced from your current Adaptive Sports USA chapter membership. Learn more about member benefits [HERE](#).

#### ***What are the chapter membership requirements?***

Our goal is to make this transition as smooth and easy as possible by providing resources and adequate time for Chapters to adapt.

Move United will automatically enroll all Adaptive Sports USA chapters. A short questionnaire will be administered to determine which membership level is appropriate.

Once initial membership is established, a renewal letter may be signed each year. Other membership requirements vary based on your membership level. You can view the membership requirements by membership level [HERE](#).

#### ***Will my chapter membership naturally roll into the new entity?***

Move United will automatically enroll all Adaptive Sports USA chapters with the understanding that there will be an onboarding period for chapters to meet requirements. Diverse membership levels will give chapters greater flexibility in joining at a membership type that fits the events, programs, and number of participants served by your chapter. Staff support will be available to assist with any questions along the way. This onboarding period shall not extend past November 30, 2021.

#### ***What are the new membership levels?***

The Membership Network is made up of organizations that provide local, regional, and/or national sports programming to athletes with disabilities. These organizations have access to a

variety of direct and ancillary benefits that enhance and foster the continued growth of adaptive and inclusive sports programming nation-wide. There are four levels of membership:

**Platinum Level – Chapter**

Adaptive Sports Organizations; Inclusive organizations with moderate/large adaptive programs.

**Gold Level – Adaptive Club**

Small Adaptive Sports Organizations; Inclusive organizations with small adaptive programs.

**Silver Level - Inclusive Club**

Inclusive organizations with inclusive programming.

**Bronze Level – Event Partner**

Adaptive and/or Inclusive events that have a clear access point for athletes with disabilities

You can find more information on the membership levels [HERE](#).

***Will individual memberships continue to be offered?***

The look and feel of our current individual membership may change but it is a priority to keep individual athletes, officials, classifiers, and supporters engaged as a part of the network. Great opportunities exist through the [Empower Youth Sports program](#) which offers resources and grant opportunities. Wounded Warriors will find resources and programming available through the [Warfighter Sports Program](#). Athletes, Coaches, Officials, Classifiers, and Supporters will find a wealth of [educational resources](#) added throughout the year. Please stay tuned for more information on a formal individual membership category.

***Who will be my membership point person?***

Your initial point of contact will continue to be Shelli Fazzini at (720) 412-7979 or [nationaloffice@adaptivesportsusa.org](mailto:nationaloffice@adaptivesportsusa.org). Kyleen Davis will serve as the Chapter Services Manager of Move United. Shelli and Kyleen will be working closely to ensure that the lines of communications are open, you know what to expect and your questions are answered.

## **MOVE UNITED: RISK MANAGEMENT**

### ***How will this affect our insurance?***

If you participate in the Adaptive Sports USA insurance program, that insurance will remain in place through December 30, 2020. New insurance policies go into effect on December 31, 2020. In the fall of 2020, you will have an opportunity to apply for insurance through Move United.

Those taking Adaptive Sports USA insurance will be contacted, via email, with additional information and an opportunity to join a conference call to review coverage and costs for 2021. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns please contact Shelli Fazzini at (720) 412-7979 or [nationaloffice@adaptivesportsusa.org](mailto:nationaloffice@adaptivesportsusa.org)

### ***How will this affect our Athlete Protection Policies?***

Move United will have a similar athlete safety policy including, training, background checks and reporting. Complete information regarding the Sport Protection Policy can be found in the handbook [HERE](#)

### ***Who will be my insurance point person?***

Your initial point of contact will continue to be Shelli Fazzini at (720) 412-7979 or [nationaloffice@adaptivesportsusa.org](mailto:nationaloffice@adaptivesportsusa.org) Ryan Semke will serve as the Risk Management and Insurance contact with Move United. Shelli and Ryan will be working closely to ensure that the lines of communications are open, you know what to expect, and your questions are answered.

## **MOVE UNITED: COMPETITION**

### ***Will Junior Nationals continue?***

Yes, Junior Nationals will continue annually under the Move United brand.

### ***Will event sanctioning continue?***

The organization will continue to sanction events that commit to follow national and, when applicable, international rules and regulations for each of the individual sports being offered at a competition, in a safe environment for athletes and spectators. Events will need to adhere to the sanctioning guidelines. Our intention is to support the Chapters in offering their own unique sanctioned event that showcases their organization and provides quality competition opportunities to athletes.

***Will the committee structure and focus sports of competition remain intact?***

Yes, we will continue to engage volunteers as we do now with the competition committee (junior, sanctioning, international) and sport committees. As the new organization evolves, the focus sports may be re-evaluated.

***Will there continue to be opportunities to compete internationally through the new organization?***

We fully intend to continue to offer international competition through our membership to the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation. While it's anticipated we will continue to be the United States of America IWAS Member, as a new entity we will go through the IWAS member application process for the formal change request.

***Will Adaptive Track and Field USA remain intact?***

Adaptive Track and Field USA (ATFUSA) will continue to work in partnership with Move United and will operate under its own 501(c)3.

**MOVE UNITED: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

***Will there still be a leadership conference and member assembly?***

Training and education will be a priority. The merger will provide great access to educational resources in a variety of formats (online, in person). We will continue to look for opportunities for our members to network, share best practices and trends, have a voice in the national organization and gain continuing education through in-person and virtual events.

***What will happen to my ADF account?***

The Athlete Development Fund is not in the best interest of Move United. Adaptive Sports USA plans to dissolve the program when the merge occurs, and all accounts will be closed by September 15, 2020. All current and active ADF holders will be contacted by Shelli Fazzini this spring to discuss the closure of accounts.

***What other funding sources are available to me?***

Move United will circulate grant and pass-through funding opportunities as they become available and highlight best practices of athletes and organizations around this topic.

***Will this affect our pass through grant this year?***

Current pass through grants from Adaptive Sports USA will not be impacted by the merger. Future pass through grant opportunities will come through the new organization. As funding opportunities become available, they will be communicated out to our members.

***Where can I learn more about Move United and what the merger means to me?***

Over the coming weeks, you will have an opportunity to dive deeper into what Move United has to offer through one-on-one meetings, a Facebook Live event, informational video sessions and links to topic specific documents. Please like the Move United Facebook page and watch your email for invitations to join us in conversation and learning opportunities. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to Shelli Fazzini at [nationaloffice@adaptivesportsusa.org](mailto:nationaloffice@adaptivesportsusa.org), (720) 412-7979 with questions or concerns.