FROM YOUR CAMPUS TO TEAM USA

U.S. Paralympics, a division of the United States Olympic Committee, needs your help with identifying and training school-age athletes who may be eligible to compete in the Paralympic Games. Are you up for the challenge of helping a student reach the podium? A member of a future U.S. Paralympic Team may be on your campus right now.

At the London 2012 Paralympic Games, 21 high school athletes competed for Team USA, while five competed at the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games including Paralympic sled hockey champions Declan Farmer and Brody Roybal. Could your school have another? Many athletes are eligible for the Paralympic Games without knowing.

PARALYMPIC-ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS

AMPUTEES AND DWARFS

Athletes with various limb amputations, including those born with dysmelia or injured in an accident, may eligible to compete in the Paralympic Games as are athletes with a medical diagnosis of dwarfism*. Amputees and dwarfs* may be able to compete in: alpine skiing, archery, biathlon, canoe, cross-country skiing, cycling, equestrian*, powerlifting*, rowing, sailing, shooting, sitting volleyball, sled hockey, swimming*, table tennis*, track and field*, triathlon, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair curling, wheelchair fencing and wheelchair tennis.

BLIND/VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Athletes who are blind or visually impaired are eligible for Paralympic competition if generally, their impairment ranges from 20/200 visual acuity or the athlete has less than 20 degrees of visual field (best corrected) in both eyes. Blind and visually impaired athletes may be eligible to compete in: alpine skiing, biathlon, cycling, equestrian, goalball, judo, rowing, sailing, swimming, track and field and triathlon.

CEREBRAL PALSY/STROKE/TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

Athletes who have cerebral palsy, stroke or a traumatic brain injury may be eligible for the Paralympic Games. Within this impairment group, eligible athletes may have a permanently bent arm or a walking gait. Athlete might be in a wheelchair depending on balance. Athletes with this classification may be eligible to compete in: alpine skiing, archery, biathlon, boccia, canoe, cross-country skiing, cycling, equestrian, powerlifting, rowing, sailing, shooting, sled hockey, soccer, swimming, table tennis, track and field, triathlon, wheelchair curling and wheelchair fencing.

SPINAL CORD INJURY/PARALYZED/WHEELCHAIR USER

Athletes who have a spinal cord injury, are paralyzed or use a wheelchair may have a variety of disabilities. The athlete may be ambulate. The athlete may use a day chair or in sport, may use a racing chair, sit ski, throwing chair or no wheelchair at all. Athletes in this classification may be eligible to compete in: alpine skiing, archery, biathlon, canoe, cross-country skiing, cycling, equestrian, powerlifting, rowing, sailing, shooting, sled hockey, swimming, table tennis, track and field, triathlon, wheelchair curling and wheelchair fencing.

INTELLECTUALLY IMPAIRED

Athletes who have an IQ of 75 or less may qualify as intellectually impaired but must be diagnosed before age 18. Intellectually impaired athletes can compete in swimming, track and field and table tennis.

For more information on Paralympic sport, visit USParalympics.org.