

While we all want to provide sports and recreation opportunities to as many people as possible, it is unlikely that we can serve everyone in every situation. Therefore, it is not recommended that member organizations have public-facing statements that indicate that they can. Statements such as “ABC Member Organization serves all athletes with disabilities,” leaves Move United member organizations open to potential legal issues if they then cannot serve all athletes with disabilities.

Being clear about who you serve will have the dual purpose of:

- Not disappointing potentially non-qualifying participants, and
- Ensuring that you are not causing potential harm to volunteers or participants by serving athletes who require services you cannot provide.

Given that qualifications for programs may vary by sport and season, in public-facing materials, it may be best to show who you serve via photos and mission statements, versus implicitly stating who you serve in order to help keep your options open as trained volunteers or equipment options come and go.

#### ***Why it Matters:***

- Member organizations that attempt to serve participants that they are not safely able to serve could cause potential harm to participants and volunteers
- Member organizations that cannot serve a participant when their website says they can, could open themselves up to legal action

#### ***Questions to Consider when Writing your Language:***

- What staff and volunteer expertise do you have or not have?
  - Examples:  
Do you have interpreters for those who primarily use sign language to communicate?  
Do you have volunteers who can physically support participants in the event of a fall, or should you institute a weight limit in a variety of programs?
- What equipment limitations might exist for certain participants?
  - Example:  
Does your equipment have a weight limit?
- What safety considerations should be considered?
  - Example:  
Are your volunteers trained to work with this disability (i.e. paraplegia, blind/low vision)?

#### ***Sample Statements:***

##### **Boys and Girls Clubs:**

Programs for All Ages. Find a selection of programs we offer by age. **Each Club is uniquely catered to its community.** Be sure to find your local Club to find all possible programs available.

##### **YMCA**

**Opportunities for All. The Y is for everyone.** Our programs, services and initiatives enable kids to realize their potential, prepare teens for college, offer ways for families to have fun together, empower people to be healthier in spirit, mind and body; prepare people for employment, welcome and embrace newcomers and help foster a nationwide service ethic. And that's just the beginning.

For more information on writing program-specific criterion language, please review the section on Developing Essential Eligibility Criteria.