



National ParaSport

CONFERENCE

June 11-13th, 2026

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

JUNE 11th (THURSDAY)

PRECON: Adaptive Sport Certifications

Certified Adaptive Sport Coaching (CASC) or Adaptive Swim (ASC)

Marist School

(3790 Ashford Dunwoody Rd NE, Atlanta)

(IN PERSON ONLY)

12:00pm	REGISTRATION & CHECK IN	
	Certified Adaptive Sport Coaching (CASC)	Adaptive Swim Certification (ASC)
1:00pm	CASC: Principles of Coaching & Leadership	ASC: Basics & Survival Skills
1:45pm	CASC: Understanding Disability & Disability Awareness	ASC: Understanding Disability
2:30pm	CASC: Adaptive Sport Competitions	ASC: Buoyancy & Equipment
3:15pm	BREAK	
3:30pm	CASC: Preventing Athlete Injury & Abuse	ASC: Aquatic Assessment/Body Mechanics
4:15pm	CASC: Adaptive Sport Equipment & Techniques	ASC: Evaluation
5:00pm	ONSITE CERTIFICATION EXAMS OR END OF PRECON CERTIFICATION TRAINING	

JUNE 12th (FRIDAY)

Marist School

(3790 Ashford Dunwoody Rd NE, Atlanta)

8:00am	REGISTRATION, CHECK-IN, LIGHT CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	
8:45am	WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS	
	TRACK 1: Emerging Adaptive Sport(ES) (VIRTUAL OR IN PERSON)	TRACK 2: Coaching Development (CD) (VIRTUAL OR IN PERSON)
9:00am	Intro to Wheelchair Football (ES1)	Building and Coaching Adaptive Mountain Biking (CD1)
9:50am	BREAK/NETWORKING/TRANSITION	
10:00am	Reaching New Heights in Paraclimbing (ES2)	Using Digital Training with Para Athletes (CD2)
10:50am	BREAK/NETWORKING/TRANSITION	
11:00am	Wheelchair Lacrosse (ES3)	Wheelchair Push Mechanics & Injury Prevention (CD3)
11:50pm	LUNCH BREAK (ON YOUR OWN)	
1:00 pm	Exploring Wind Sports (ES4)	Leading Adaptive Fitness for All (CD4)
1:50pm	BREAK/NETWORKING/TRANSITION	

2:00pm	Adaptive Golf "Fore" ALL (ES5)	Working with Visually Impaired Athletes (CD5)
2:50pm	BREAK/NETWORKING/TRANSITION	
3:00pm (90 MIN)	Blind Cricket & Hands-on Demonstration (ES6)	
4:30pm	END OF SEMINAR-BASED CONFERENCE	

<p align="center">APPLIED ADAPTIVE SPORT EXPERIENCE TRAINING @PPG Peachtree Paragames (PPG) Adaptive Swimming Marist School Aquatic Center (3790 Ashford Dunwoody Rd NE, Atlanta) (IN PERSON ONLY)</p>		
4:30pm	APPLIED ADAPTIVE SPORT EXPERIENCE (Adaptive Swimming Timers & Athlete Assistants)	
5:30pm	APPLIED ADAPTIVE SPORT EXPERIENCE (Adaptive Swimming Timers & Athlete Assistants)	
6:30pm	APPLIED ADAPTIVE SPORT EXPERIENCE (Adaptive Swimming Timers & Athlete Assistants)	

<p align="center">JUNE 13th (SATURDAY) Holy Innocents' Episcopal School (805 Mount Vernon Hwy NW, Atlanta)</p>		
<p align="center">APPLIED ADAPTIVE SPORT EXPERIENCE TRAINING @PPG 2026 Peachtree Paragames (PPG) Archery, Track & Field (IN PERSON ONLY)</p>		
8:00am	ARRIVAL CHECK-IN & SPORT SITE PREP	
9:00am	Adaptive Archery Asst. @PPG	Adaptive Track Asst. @ PPG
10:00am	Adaptive Archery Asst. @PPG	Adaptive Track Asst. @ PPG
11:00am	Adaptive Archery Asst. @PPG	Adaptive Track Asst. @ PPG
12:00pm	BOX LUNCH & GROUP PROCESSING	
1:00 pm	Adaptive Field Asst. @ PPG (Javelin, Discuss, Shot Put, Long Jump)	
2:00 pm	Adaptive Field Asst. @ PPG (Javelin, Discuss, Shot Put, Long Jump)	
3:00pm	Adaptive Field Asst. @ PPG (Javelin, Discuss, Shot Put, Long Jump)	
4:00pm	Adaptive Field Asst. @ PPG (Javelin, Discuss, Shot Put, Long Jump)	
5:00pm	PPG SUMMARY, CLOSURE, & CLEAN UP	

Session Descriptions

JUNE 11th (THURSDAY)

<p>1:00pm-5:00pm</p> <p>MARIST SCHOOL (ROOM TBD)</p> <p>IN PERSON ONLY</p>	<p>Certified Adaptive Sport Coaching Certification (CASC) Training (PRECON1) Dr. David Loy, LRT, CTRS, CARSS-II, CASC <i>Blazesports America</i></p> <p>The BlazeSports America Certified Adaptive Sport Coaching (CASC) prepares coaches to properly train and support athletes with a variety of disabilities across multiple sports. This certification provides a comprehensive understanding of disability awareness and etiquette, coaching techniques for adaptive athletes, injury prevention, adaptive equipment basics, athlete abuse prevention, and much more. Attendees will have the opportunity to take the CASC Certification Exam immediately after training or virtually at another pre-arranged time.</p>
<p>1:00pm-5:00pm</p> <p>MARIST SCHOOL (NATATORIUM, ROOM TBD)</p> <p>IN PERSON ONLY</p>	<p>Adaptive Swim Certification (ASC) Training (PRECON2) <i>Blazesports America Staff</i></p> <p>The Adaptive Swim Certification is offered exclusively as an in-person course, held twice a year, and combines a therapeutic approach to teaching swimming independence for children, youth, and adults with disabilities. This hands-on experience ensures participants gain the confidence and practical skills needed to effectively support individuals of all ages and abilities in the water.</p>

JUNE 12th (FRIDAY)

<p>9:00-9:50am</p> <p>MARIST SCHOOL (ROOM TBD)</p> <p>IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL</p>	<p>“Introduction to Wheelchair Football” (ES1) <i>Blazesports America Coaching Staff</i></p> <p>Come learn about how to play wheelchair football. Presenters will provide an overview of the sport, rule adaptations, resources provided by the National Football League (NFL), and strategies for introducing the sport in your community program.</p>
<p>9:00-9:50am</p> <p>MARIST SCHOOL (ROOM TBD)</p> <p>IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL</p>	<p>“Helping Riders Reaching New Heights in Adaptive Mountain Biking: Become an Adaptive Mountain Bike Coach/Advocate” (CD1) Maggie Smith, Adaptive Mountain Bike Program Coordinator <i>Catalyst Sports</i></p> <p>Eric Gray, Executive Director <i>Catalyst Sports</i></p> <p>Adaptive mountain biking is opening the trails to riders with physical disabilities, and support riders play a key role in making these experiences safe, welcoming, and fun. This session introduces the fundamentals of becoming an effective adaptive MTB support rider. Attendees will learn how Catalyst Sports builds access, community, and impact through volunteer-driven programs across the Southeast, and how support riders help turn first trail experiences into lasting outdoor participation. We’ll cover disability etiquette, person-first communication, and the importance of asking about needs rather than making assumptions. Participants will gain a basic understanding of adaptive bike types, equipment</p>

	<p>setup, rider fitting, and safety considerations, including spotting techniques and trail etiquette. The session will also walk through the flow of a typical group ride—from preparation to post-ride community building. Whether you’re a mountain biker, trail advocate, or volunteer looking to get involved, this presentation will equip you with the knowledge and confidence to help more people experience the freedom of the trails.</p>
<p>10:00-10:50am</p> <p>MARIST SCHOOL (ROOM TBD)</p> <p>IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL</p>	<p>“Reaching New Heights: Introduction to Paraclimbing” (ES2) Maggie Smith, Program Coordinator <i>Catalyst Sports</i></p> <p>Paraclimbing is a rapidly growing sport, making its Paralympic debut at the Los Angeles games in 2028. This presentation will introduce you to the sport of paraclimbing, including rules, governing bodies, athlete classification, and equipment used. Resources will be provided for athletes interested in getting started in paraclimbing in their local community.</p>
<p>10:00-10:50am</p> <p>MARIST SCHOOL (ROOM TBD)</p> <p>IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL</p>	<p>“Using Digital Educational Videos in Wheelchair Lacrosse: Improving Skills and Injury Prevention in Paraspport” Erin Degnan, Occupational Therapy Doctoral Student <i>Georgia State University</i></p> <p>This presentation will explain the use of a digital training platform proposed for use in wheelchair lacrosse to teach safe and effective exercises for para athletes. The presenter will further discuss how coaches and adaptive sport programs can use this effective model in other parasports.</p>
<p>11:00-11:50am</p> <p>MARIST SCHOOL (ROOM TBD)</p> <p>IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL</p>	<p>“Wheelchair Lacrosse: Indigenous Roots & Paralympic Dreams” (ES3) Shawn Maloney, Manager <i>Adaptive Sport Growth, USA Lacrosse</i></p> <p>Wheelchair Lacrosse offers the complete package — the speed of wheelchair basketball, the skill of sled hockey, and the toughness of wheelchair rugby. This session will introduce attendees to the sport of Wheelchair Lacrosse, including the rules, strategies, and fundamental skills of the game. Participants will learn how to safely and effectively deliver wheelchair lacrosse programming and how to develop your team in your community. Participants will also discover the Indigenous roots of lacrosse and develop relationships with sport leaders as they pursue the long-term goal of Paralympic inclusion.</p>
<p>11:00-11:50am</p> <p>MARIST SCHOOL (ROOM TBD)</p> <p>IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL</p>	<p>“Push Mechanics & Injury Prevention in Wheelchair Sports” (CD3) Dr. David Loy, LRT, CTRS, CARSS-II, CASC <i>Blazesports America</i></p> <p>The following session will demonstrate how coaches and adaptive sport programmers can evaluate the biomechanics of the wheelchair push with simple or more sophisticated methods. The presentation will examine the use of the Smartwheel™ and other visual imaging strategies to evaluate and teach a more efficient and effective push technique. Special emphasis will be made to discuss a better wheelchair push technique to help promote better sport performance and more importantly protect the athlete from injuries resulting from inappropriate push techniques.</p>
<p>1:00-1:50pm</p> <p>MARIST SCHOOL (ROOM TBD)</p> <p>IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL</p>	<p>“Exploring the Next Generation of Adventure-seeking Adaptive Sports and Recreation: Windsports” (ES4) Dr. Cari Autry, LRT, CTRS, Associate Professor & Director-ECU Sailing Simulation Lab <i>East Carolina University</i></p> <p>Dr. David Loy, LRT, CTRS, CARSS-II, CASC Jerry McGee Distinguished Professor of Recreational Therapy <i>East Carolina University</i></p> <p>Something new is blowing for adventure seekers. Windsports has become a sport and recreation</p>

	<p>activity for individuals with disabilities. Speakers will present new sport and recreation activities that harness the power of the wind for new experiences. The session will also explore adaptive equipment and competitive opportunities in kiteboarding, blokarting, sailing, and competitive kiting. Come learn how you can create new adventures with the power of the wind.</p>
<p>1:00-1:50pm</p> <p>MARIST SCHOOL (ROOM TBD)</p> <p>IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL</p>	<p>“Adaptive Fitness for All Abilities” (CD4) Ariel Bailey, M.S., CTRS, CARSS-II, AIT, Program Manager <i>Clemson University Adaptive Sports Program</i></p> <p>This session focuses on practical ways to make fitness training accessible for athletes with a wide range of physical abilities. We’ll look at how to adapt movements for upper-limb and lower-limb impairments, as well as spinal cord injuries both with and without hip function. Using a CrossFit-style approach, we’ll break down how to keep workouts challenging, safe, and meaningful while adjusting movement patterns, loading, and equipment as needed. We’ll also spend time on everyday gym setups — barbells, assault bikes, rowers, dumbbells, cable machines — and talk through simple adjustments that make them less intimidating and more usable for athletes who may not fit the “standard” mold. The goal is to give coaches and trainers practical tools, creative options, and confidence so they can support any athlete who walks through the door. Participants will leave with adaptable workout ideas, communication tips, and a better understanding of how to build an inclusive training environment.</p>
<p>2:00-2:50pm</p> <p>MARIST SCHOOL (ROOM TBD)</p> <p>IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL</p>	<p>“Golf FORE ALL: Introduction to Adaptive Golf” (ES5) Ross Brakeville, DPT Adaptive Golf Instructor</p> <p>David Windsor, Director of Adaptive Golf <i>PGA of America</i></p> <p>The DRIVE to get individuals with disabilities on the golf links is underway. This session will introduce attendees to the sport of adaptive golf including a brief history, rule adaptations, access and mobility equipment, and how you can get involved. The session will also explore the role of the Professional Golf Association (PGA) of America and sponsored competitions across the country.</p>
<p>2:00-2:50pm</p> <p>MARIST SCHOOL (ROOM TBD)</p> <p>IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL</p>	<p>“Working with Athletes with Visual Impairments in Sports” (CD5) Dr. David Loy, Director <i>Beep Kickball Association (BKBA)</i></p> <p>Come learn about blind sports and how to work with visually impaired athletes. This session will explore the many different blind sports including goal ball, beep baseball, beep kickball, and blind soccer. The program will also provide administrators, programmers, and coaches important information about the basics of working with athletes with visual impairments and managing blind sport programs.</p>
<p>3:00-4:30pm</p> <p>90 MIN.</p> <p>MARIST SCHOOL (ROOM TBD)</p> <p>IN-PERSON VIRTUAL (Please note 30 minute hands on demonstration will NOT be</p>	<p>“The Cricket Wave: Bringing the World’s Second Most Popular Sport to the North American ParaSport Ecosystem” (ES6) Dhiraj Sequeira, <i>Sports Initiatives Lead at Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled</i></p> <p>Dr. Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar <i>Founder of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled</i></p> <p>As the adaptive sports landscape shifts toward high-performance, globally recognized disciplines, blind cricket is emerging as a trend for 2026 and beyond. Built on a global sport with over 300 million participants, blind cricket has evolved into an organized international game, with structured competitions, multiple World Cups, and participation across more than 10 countries. This session introduces attendees to the high-energy world of blind cricket—a sport that has evolved from a grassroots adaptation into an elite international phenomenon. Aligned with this year’s theme of “Emerging Adaptive Sports”, we will explore how this parasport leverages unique auditory mechanics and technical innovations to provide a professionalized competitive platform for athletes across all</p>

<p>available to VIRTUAL participants.)</p>	<p>visual impairment classifications. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the sport's specialized gameplay, from the technical engineering of the audio-ball to the strategic adaptations required for elite competition. By focusing on their integration of blind cricket into the existing para-sport ecosystem, this session provides a blueprint for North American providers to identify national partnerships and local champions. Attendees will leave with a fresh perspective on sensory-based athletics and the practical knowledge needed to advocate for this inclusive, fast-paced sport within their own communities.</p>
<p>2:00-7:00pm</p> <p>MARIST SCHOOL (NATATORIUM)</p> <p>IN-PERSON ONLY</p>	<p>Applied Adaptive Sport Experience (ADDITIONAL ADD ON TRACK): Peachtree Paragames Adaptive Swimming Competition</p> <p>A new paradigm for the National Parasport Conference is to allow attendees the opportunity to gain hands-on experience by working the 2026 Peachtree ParaGames (PPG). Attendees will serve as competition assistants as adaptive swimming timers and athlete assistants at the swimming competition. Attendees will receive hands on training with Blazesports Staff, Certified USA Swimming Officials, and have an opportunity to learn from adaptive swimming coaches and athletes. Attendees will receive pre-competition training, on site feedback, t-shirt, and meal/refreshments. Earned hands-on hours can be applied to Blazesports certifications.</p>
<p>JUNE 13th (SATURDAY)</p>	
<p>8:00am-5:00pm</p> <p>Holy Innocents' School (Athletic Fields)</p> <p>IN-PERSON ONLY</p>	<p>Applied Adaptive Sport Experience (Additional Add on Track): Peachtree Paragames Adaptive Archery/Track & Field Competition</p> <p>A new paradigm for the National Parasport Conference will allow attendees the opportunity to gain hands-on experience by working the 2026 Peachtree ParaGames (PPG). The PPG is a regional adaptive sport competition that serves as a national qualifier for swimming, archery, and track & field for para athletes from over the southeastern United States. National Parasport Conference attendees will serve as competition assistants such as adaptive archery scoring assistants and track and field assistants (track events, javelin, long jump, shot put, club throw) at competition. Attendees will receive hands on training with Blazesports Staff, Certified USA Archery/Track & Field USA Officials, and have an opportunity to learn from adaptive sport coaches and athletes. Attendees will receive pre-competition training, on-site training feedback, and meals/refreshments. Earned hands-on hours can be applied to Blazesports certifications.</p>