



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WinSport's adaptive sports program returns for second year

CALGARY, Alta. – Following the success of last year's launch of a new adaptive sports program, WinSport is excited to announce that the program will return for a second year.

This year's program, which helps introduce Calgarians with and without physical disabilities to adapted wheelchair sport opportunities, begins Sunday, Feb. 2 and runs for 12 weeks until April 19.

The free program, which is open to people of all ages, is made possible through the support of the TELUS Friendly Futures Foundation. Participants will be introduced to a different wheelchair sport each week by expert coaches from local and provincial sport organizations in each respective sport.

Sunday's kickoff session isn't limited to students from Hogwarts as we adapt Harry Potter's game of quidditch into a wheelchair version. (Media are welcome to attend Sunday's launch from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., or any Sunday).

"Our goal is to connect participants to sport organizations that facilitate these sports in hopes these individuals take sport further," says Jackson Sinclair, WinSport's program facilitator. "We want to show people the opportunities the adapted sport world has."

Featured sports, in addition to quidditch, include handcycling, lacrosse, rugby, basketball, fencing, tennis, curling and sledge hockey.

Participants can register for any or all the weekly sessions, and WinSport encourages participants to invite family members, friends, or teammates.

More than 130 individuals took part in last year's nine-week pilot program, including seven-year-old Sawyer Murray, who was a regular participant.

"Adapted wheelchair sports through WinSport has been one of the most amazing things my son has had the pleasure in taking part in," says Sawyer's mom, Cassandra. "Sawyer has been given access to sports he would never have had opportunity to experience. The growth in his confidence and strength through this program has been amazing, not to mention the friendships and relationships we've gained. He's already signed up for adapted handcycling and would like to join wheelchair basketball. The program also offered able bodied participants, like my other children, the chance to be equally involved with their brother."

The program is based at WinSport's Markin MacPhail Performance Training Centre.

Participants can pre-register by emailing Jackson Sinclair (Team Lead of the Performance Training Centre) at jsinclair@winsport.ca or by calling 403-202-6528. Drop-ins are also

available between 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Guest Services desk in the Markin MacPhail Centre.

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About WinSport

The Calgary Olympic Development Association, which operates as WinSport, is a not-for-profit community-based organization that owns and operates Canada Olympic Park. Our vision is to be a world-leading centre for athletic development. We inspire human potential through the spirit of sport by introducing people to winter and mountain sports, helping them develop their skills and thereby igniting a passion for sport and lifelong learning. WinSport does not receive any direct government funding for our operations and we support our purpose by building on the legacy of the 1988 Winter Olympic Games and by delivering exceptional value and experiences to our guests. For more information on WinSport please visit www.winsport.ca.

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