



Disability, Sport and Society: An Introduction

Nigel Thomas, Andy Smith

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Disability sport is a relatively recent phenomenon, yet it is also one that, particularly in the context of social inclusion, is attracting increasing political and academic interest. The purpose of this important new text – the first of its kind – is to introduce the reader to key concepts in disability and disability sport and to examine the complex relationships between modern sport, disability and other aspects of wider society.

Drawing upon original data from interviews, surveys and policy documents, the book examines how disability sport has developed and is currently organised, and explores key themes, issues and concepts including:

- disability theory and policy
- the emergence and development of disability sport
- disability sport development in local authorities
- mainstreaming disability sport
- disability, physical education and school sport
- elite disability sport and the Paralympic Games
- disability sport and the media.

Including chapter summaries, seminar questions and lists of key websites and further reading throughout, *Sport, Disability and Society* provides both an easy to follow introduction and a critical exploration of the key issues surrounding disability sport in the twenty-first century. This book is an invaluable resource for all students, researchers and professionals working in sport studies, disability studies, physical education, sociology and social policy.

Nigel Thomas is Head of Sport and Exercise at Staffordshire University, UK, where his research focuses on the history, mainstreaming, and media coverage of disability sport. He previously worked for ten years with young disabled people as a sports development officer in local authorities and national governing bodies.

Andy Smith is Lecturer in the Sociology of Sport and Exercise at the University of Chester, UK. He is a co-editor of the *International Journal of Sport Policy*, and a co-author of *Sport Policy and Development: A Sociological Introduction*, and *An Introduction to Drugs in Sport: Addicted to Winning?* Both books are published by Routledge (2009).

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