

Sports By Ability - NOT Disability

By: Lisa Pierce and Katie Ellis

Who Are We?

Katie Ellis

- Elementary SCI Teacher
- 15 years teaching experience
- Head Coach - Muskegon Waves
- MiDSA (Michigan Disability Sports Alliance) Board Member

Lisa Pierce

- High School SXI Teacher
- 9 Years teaching experience - all at center based
- Assistant Coach Muskegon Waves
- MiDSA (Michigan Disability Sports Alliance) Board Member

What Does MVG (Michigan Victory Games) Do?

Michigan Victory Games gives athletes with physical disabilities a chance.

A chance to compete, make friends, and feel the support of a team.

A chance to experience the thrill of victory and the possibility of defeat.

A chance to gain the kind of values, morals and skills that only sports can provide.

A chance to instill a belief and inspire greatness.

A chance to experience the spirit of competition that we've provided for over 40 years.

Inside Look at MVG



Who Can Compete?

Eligibility

Athletes age seven and up, with a primary physical disability (with or without a cognitive disability) are able to compete. Diagnoses may include:

- Spina Bifida
- Stroke
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Amputee
- Cerebral Palsy
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Muscular Dystrophy

Over the years, Michigan Victory Games has qualified athletes to compete in the Paralympic World Games and the National Sports Festival.

What Kind of Events Are There?

Events Include:

- Powerlifting
- Slalom
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Track & Field
- Individual, Pair & Team Boccia
- Bowling
- Cross Country
- Cycling
- Hand Cycling
- And, the most important event of the weekend....THE DANCE!!!!

How Do We Adapt ALL These Events?

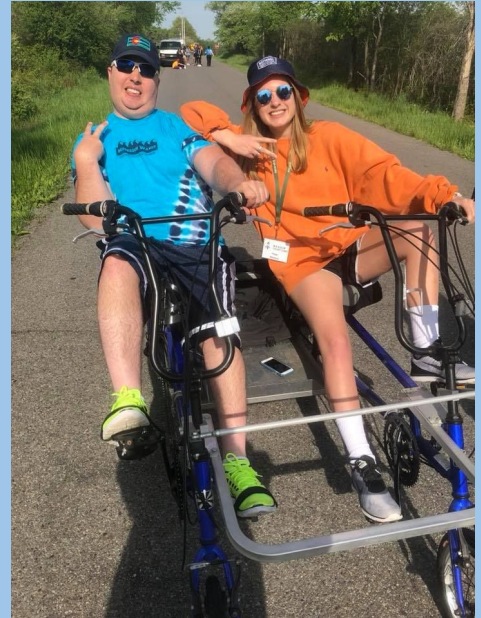
MVG believes ALL athletes can compete! So, we get creative!

- Boccia
 - Some athletes use ramps to 'throw' the ball down the boccia court
 - Only rule is, athlete has to be the last one to touch the ball
 - Athletes who have limited upper extremity movement, may even use a head guide or arm splint to 'hold' the ball



Adaptations Continued

- Biking
 - Athletes can bike on their own, or pick one of our amazing volunteers to help them pedal to the finish line!
- Bowling
 - Ramps are provided to those who need help bowling that strike!



Adaptations Continued

- Weight Lifting
 - Straps are used to stabilize athlete's lower extremities to focus on their upper extremities.
- Track and Field
 - Placement of bean bags will help athletes with distance or precision toss.



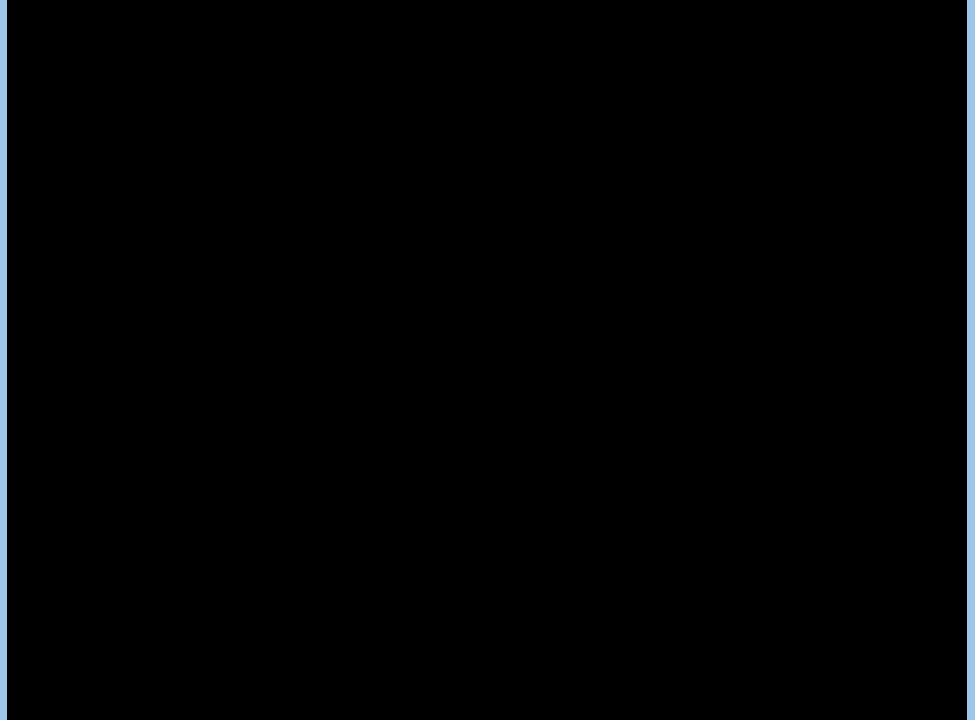
Dance

Our athletes work hard on the field/court....AND on the dance floor!



Current Teams

- Grand Rapids Eagles
- Ionia Trailblazers
- Muskegon Waves
- Oakland County Mighty Oaks
- Jackson Tigers
- Lansing Strong



What Does It Mean To Our Athletes?

2019 BOOM (Be Our Own Motivation)

Athlete of the Year and Muskegon

Waves Athlete, Jeffrey VanDyke



Want To Volunteer?

- Volunteers can come for the day, or stay for the whole weekend.
- Volunteers assist athletes, record times for events, set up/tear down events and, most importantly, cheer for our athletes!
- To sign up to volunteer, follow the link on <http://www.michiganvictorygames.org/>
- The whole family can volunteer!

2020 Michigan Victory Games

May 14-17 at Michigan State University



Want To Start Your Own Team?

- Teams come in many sizes, from just a few athletes to needing charter busses to get to MSU!
- You can even register as an independent athlete and come compete without an affiliated team!
- For more information on how to start a team, or to come as an independent athlete visit <http://www.michiganvictorygames.org/>



Questions? We are here to help!

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May 14-17, 2020 at Michigan State University for the Michigan Victory Games