



## Seasonal Programs

- Swimming
- Track & Field
- Tennis
- Indoor Wheelchair Soccer
- Wheelchair Basketball

## Clinics & Special Events

- Archery
- Adapted Water Skiing
- Fitness and Nutrition



- Adapted Golf
- Table Tennis
- Bowling
- Hand Cycling

## Competitions

- Blaze Ability Games
- Dixie Games
- National Junior Disability Championships
- Other local, regional, and national events



Advancing the lives of youth and adults with physical disabilities through participation in sports and healthy lifestyles

## BlazeSports Tampa Bay

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## BlazeSports Tampa Bay



Parks, Recreation and  
Conservation Department

# What is BlazeSports?



BlazeSports Tampa Bay is a non-profit organization providing sports and recreation programs for youths and adults with physical disabilities such as spina bifida, cerebral palsy, spinal

cord injury, muscular dystrophy, traumatic brain injury, amputation, and visual impairment.

A signature program of the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Department and one of 63 member clubs of BlazeSports America, BlazeSports Tampa Bay (BSTB) provides year-round programs that promote physical activity, healthy lifestyles, and recreational and competitive sports opportunities for athletes with physical disabilities. Through athletic training and interaction with peers and coaches, participants are equipped to reach their potential in sport and life; they become more confident, independent, and ready to be leaders in their schools and communities.



## A Word from the Director...

"Just because a child has a disability doesn't mean he or she can't do anything. Our goal at BlazeSports Tampa Bay is first and foremost for the kids to have fun! We offer them the opportunity to be seen for their ability rather than their disability. There are a lot of different levels to our programming and athletes participate on the level they are comfortable with, whether recreational or competitive. The social and educational value of being in a program like this and being part of a team is equal to, if not more important than the competitions. Our program is open to anyone with a physical disability (6 years and up). We only ask that the kids give their best effort and always try to have fun!"

*Andy Chasanoff*

## What Kids say about BSTB:

"I gained a lot of confidence because of sports and now I can answer people's questions about my disability better."  
~Kenjy, age 21, amputee~



"Blaze has made me change for the positive. I no longer need help pushing cause now I'm strong from playing sports."  
~Julia, age 10, spina bifida~



## What Parents Say:

"I don't know what we'd do without Blaze. The kids can be themselves. It's been great as a parent too because it offers me a support system."  
~Marsha, mother of 10 year old Emily, spina bifida~

"When we moved to Tampa, Sarah wore water wings in the pool, but now she swims competitively, water-skis, and more. Blaze was the best thing that ever happened to her!"  
~Les, father of 17 year old Sarah, cerebral palsy~

## BlazeSports Tampa Bay 2009 Calendar

- January 3: Wheelchair Basketball continues
- January 23-25: Quad Ruby Tournament
- February 9: Spring Tennis begins
- February 14: "No Limits" Sports Day
- February 28: Gasparilla 5K
- March 14: Bowling for Blaze Fundraiser
- March 19: Spring Track & Field begins
- March 30: Spring Swimming begins
- April 4: Weight Lifting Clinic
- April 5-9: Paralympic Development Camp\*
- April 25: Blaze Ability Games
- May 8-10: Dixie Games\*
- May 16-17: Divability Camp (girls only)
- May 28,30: "Last Chance" Track & Field Meet
- June 1: Swim Time Trials
- June 6: Adaptive Golf Clinic
- June 13: Adapted Water Ski Clinic
- June 24-28: Blaze Basketball Camp
- July 26-August 2: 2009 National Junior Disability Championships\* (St. Louis, MO)
- August 13: Indoor Wheelchair Soccer begins
- August 22: BlazeSports Awards Luncheon
- September 14: Fall Swimming begins
- September 17: Fall Track & Field begins
- October 3: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Blaze Golf Classic
- November 5: Wheelchair Basketball begins
- November 9: Fall Tennis begins
- November 21: Adaptive Golf Clinic
- December 4-6: Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Department Holiday Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

Dates are tentative and subject to change

Additional events may be added

\* By invitation only