



MEDIA RELEASE
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PRESIDENT ENCOURAGES PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO PLAY SPORT REGULARLY AT THE INAUGURAL *INCLUSIVE SPORT CONFERENCE 2021*

- *From June 2021, Sport Singapore’s new Social Service Corporate Membership scheme will give persons with disabilities more access to sport facilities, opportunities to play regularly and programmes customised to individual needs*
- *Social Service Agencies will receive \$1,000 ActiveSG credits to kickstart the scheme*
- *The scheme was announced at the inaugural Inclusive Sport Conference, which aims to strengthen Singapore’s ecosystem for inclusive sports by establishing a baseline on disability sports and capability building, with a long-term view towards international and regional partnerships.*

Singapore, 16 March 2021 – Sport Singapore (SportSG) will introduce a new Social Service Corporate Membership scheme, which will be rolled out from June this year. The scheme aims to encourage organised, regular sports and exercise sessions for persons with disabilities (PwDs) at ActiveSG sport centres. This will include curated programming with partner organisations, as well as free access for their beneficiaries to ActiveSG swimming pools and gyms. The new scheme was announced by SportCares Patron and Guest-of-Honour President Halimah Yacob at the inaugural Inclusive Sport Conference 2021.

“Sport has long been recognised as a good way to bring people together, regardless of who we are and where we come from. It is thus an excellent driving force to empower persons with disabilities to improve their quality of life, build independence and stay healthy physically and mentally,” said Madam President. “Through the Social

Service Corporate Membership scheme, SportSG will work with partner organisations to encourage persons with disabilities to kickstart an active lifestyle through regular sport and exercise activities at our ActiveSG Centres.”

Targeting more than 13,000 new members, the scheme hopes to get more PwDs to participate in sporting activities more than once a week. For a start, Social Service Agencies will be given \$1,000 ActiveSG credits to book facilities and programmes offered by ActiveSG. The 2019 National Sports Participation Survey revealed that 1 in 2 persons with disabilities participated in at least one sport activity every week, which is a significant increase from the 2016 survey that showed only 1 in 3 persons participated in sports. *(More details in Annex)*

“The Social Service Corporate Membership scheme aims to encourage persons with different abilities to participate in sport and sustain an active lifestyle. It will create opportunities for the community to enjoy sport together at our ActiveSG centres, building better understanding and fostering meaningful friendships across people of all abilities. It is through progressive steps like this that we can build toward making Singapore a more inclusive sporting nation,” said Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Law.

Inaugural Inclusive Sport Conference 2021

Hosted by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) and Sport Singapore (SportSG), and co-hosted by Singapore Disability Sports Council and Special Olympics Singapore, the inaugural Inclusive Sport Conference 2021 (ISC 2021) will be held from 16 – 18 March.

Emphasising the importance of embracing inclusivity within the community, Madam President said, “Today’s conference serves as a new but important platform to bring all stakeholders in the disability ecosystem together. I am confident that the ideas and discussions put forth at today’s conference can catalyse partnerships among the many stakeholders in Singapore’s disability community, to empower Persons with Disabilities through sport and build a more inclusive society.”

The three-day virtual conference will discuss topics ranging from the individual level to community and ecosystem levels, targeting specific focus areas and knowledge gaps surrounding inclusion and adapted sports. The conference aims to strengthen Singapore's ecosystem for inclusive sports by first establishing a baseline on disability sports and capability building, with a long-term view towards international and regional partnerships.

Themed *Forge Forward Together* tying in with its tagline *Towards an Inclusive Society through Sports*, the conference takes a multi-pronged approach to inform the basis of the ecosystem surrounding disability sports, with its sub-themes focusing on:

- (1) Sport and health and wellness for PwDs (Individual based);
- (2) Multi-agency partnerships towards a collaborative ecosystem; and
- (3) Co-creation of projects and initiatives for greater social integration through sports.

ISC 2021 has more than 700 registered participants including persons with disabilities and their families, Special Olympics athletes, sport practitioners, educators, students, allied professionals, caregivers and volunteers. Keynote speakers include Mr Ken Black from The Inclusion Club, Dr Teo-Koh Sock Miang from the Singapore Disability Sports Council and Captain Roger Loh from Special Olympics Singapore.

Interested parties may register to participate at <https://www.isc2021.sg>.

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About Sport Singapore

As the national sports agency, Sport Singapore's core purpose is to inspire the Singapore spirit and transform Singapore through sport. Through innovative, fun and meaningful sporting experiences, our mission is to reach out and serve communities across Singapore with passion and pride. With Vision 2030 – Singapore's sports master plan, our mandate goes beyond winning medals. Sport Singapore uses sport to create greater sporting opportunities and access, more inclusivity and integration as well as broader development of capabilities. At Sport Singapore, we work with a vast network of public-private-people sector partners for individuals to live better through sport.

To find out more, visit our websites www.sportsingapore.gov.sg and www.myactivesg.com. Follow us at www.facebook.com/myActiveSG and www.youtube.com/SingaporeSports.

About SportCares

SportCares was established in 2012 as the philanthropic arm of Sport Singapore to enable vulnerable individuals and persons with disabilities (PWDs) to experience and reap the benefits of sport by instilling confidence and elevating one's outlook to life. Since 2016, SportCares has been executing the recommendations of the Disability Sports Master Plan under the guidance of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Under the DSMP, sport is appreciated to create a more inclusive society for persons with disabilities. The goal is to expand opportunities for sports participation by PWDs, connect stakeholders for increased outreach and enable holistic development of sports for social good ecosystem. To find out more, visit www.inclusivesport.sg.

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SOCIAL SERVICE (PWD) CORPORATE SCHEME BENEFITS

- Free booking of swimming lanes and gyms for SPED school and PWD adult centre programmes
- Co-creation and tailor-made programmes based on needs/disabilities
- Members of the SSAs get to be enrolled also as individual members that enjoy ActiveSG credits
- Consider allocating \$1000 ActiveSG credits (for hall bookings or paid programmes) for SSAs upon sign-up as incentive for programming with ActiveSG

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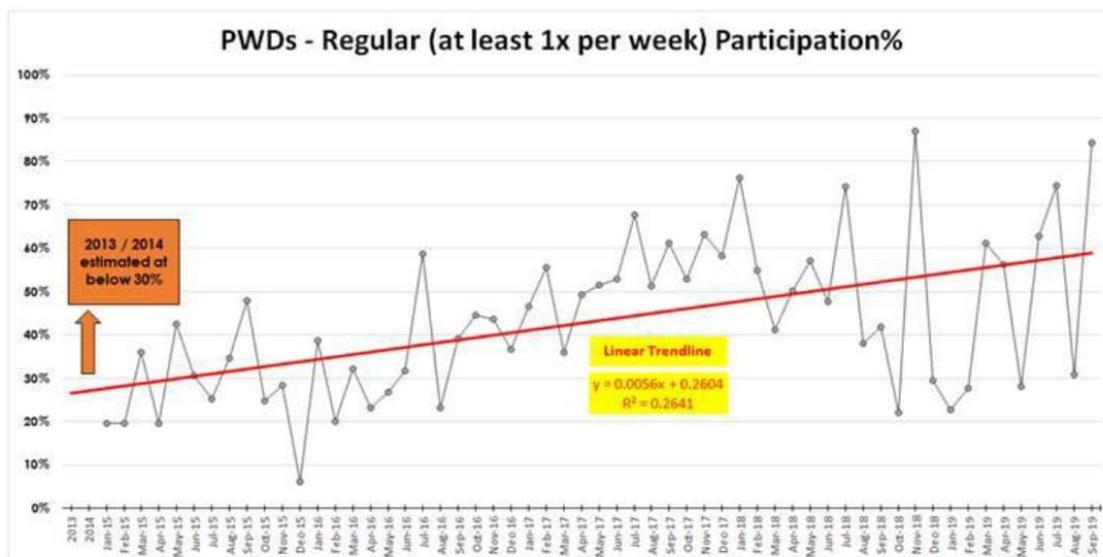


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NSPS on PWDs Regular Participation % from 2015 - 2019



National Sport Participation Survey on PwDs who engage in regular exercise, (2015-2019)