

# Starting a Collegiate Wheelchair Tennis Program

## Quick Guide

### Leadership & Organization

#### Leadership

- Identify a program champion both in the community and on campus
- Identify a tennis coach (student, staff, alumni or local athlete)
- Find program volunteers – create student internships, community volunteer hours
- Work to gain administrative awareness and support

#### Organization

- Speak with Athletics Department – Varsity Tennis Coaches
- Create an on campus student organization
- Establish a recreation program under club sports
- Work with faculty on education and adapted sports research

*Question: Who at the University will help you break down barriers?*

### Finding Athletes

#### On Campus

- Cross-training from other adapted sports
- Office of Disability Services or Disabilities Service Center
- Create a table at Student Organization Day and Campus Wide Events
- Inclusive Recreation Expo for able-bodied and disabled students and staff

#### Off Campus

- Search out Community College student athletes
- Connect with local wheelchair tennis (or other adapted sport) programs
- Identify junior and high school wheelchair tennis players
- Host a kick-off or awareness event (tournament, social, play day, etc.)

*Question: What is the best way to raise program awareness on your campus?*

### Obtaining Funding

#### Off Campus

- Request USTA state, section and national grants
- Connect with local non-profits and community tennis associations
- Apply for National Grants (Challenged Athlete Foundation & Crossroads Alliance)
- Visit USTA Collegiate Wheelchair Tennis Website – Resource guide

#### On Campus

- Student Organization Funding
- Club Sports Funding
- Athletics Support (Court time, Equipment, Uniforms, etc.)
- University Department Funding (ex. Kinesiology or Exercise Science)

*Question: How can we subsidize or eliminate travel and training costs for our athletes?*

