

### **What is the criteria to be considered for AWD entry?**

- Criteria for entry into the AWD category is as follows:
- AWDs must be able to run the course.
- Tethers may be used for athletes with a visual impairment.
- Leg prosthetics may be used for amputees.
- Crutches, braces, or poles may be used if indicated/necessary, with approval from the RD.

### **What is the AWD entry process?**

- AWDs will follow the same registration process as the general registration, and will register for the distance race they plan to run

### **What is the AWD division breakdown?**

Based on International Paralympic Committee impairment descriptions, Team Sparkle Productions will \*recognize two types of AWDs based on clearly defined eligible impairments: Visually impaired and mobility impaired.

#### **1. VISUAL IMPAIRED DIVISION**

Individuals with vision impacted by an impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or the visual cortex, may be granted registration as an AWD but will not be allowed extended time on the course.

A couple things to note about our course for visually impaired athletes:

- Course Markings
  - AWDs, with assistance from their guide as needed, must be able to follow the course as marked. Unfortunately, Team Sparkle Productions is not able to make accommodations for athletes with visual impairments by altering the standard course markings.
- Canines
  - Currently dogs are allowed on the majority of our courses. Typically dogs require an additional registration, but we will wave the fee for AWD athletes. Please contact the RD to either wave the fee, or to request use of a canine on any course they are not allowed so that we can make accommodations for you.

#### **2. MOBILITY IMPRAIED DIVISION**

Individuals with permanent physical disabilities that affect their ability to walk/run, may be granted registration as an AWD but will not be allowed extended time on the course.

This includes:

- Limb deficiency
- Total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (e.g. car accident), illness (e.g. bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (e.g. dysmelia).
- Leg length difference
- Bone shortening in one leg due to congenital deficiency or trauma.
- Short stature
- Reduced standing height due to abnormal dimensions of bones of upper and lower limbs or trunk, for example due to achondroplasia (dwarfism) or growth hormone dysfunction

Unfortunately, due to course restrictions and safety concerns related to the trails on our trail courses.

This does not include:

- \*Athletes in wheelchairs and duo teams in hand cycles, push-rim cycles, or racing wheelchairs.
- \*All AWDs must be fully ambulatory, the use of any mechanical device will not be allowed.

### **What are the rules for AWDs and Guides?**

AWDs and their guide(s) will follow the same rules as all participants:

Start times, Course, and Time Limits

#### Guide Rules

- AWDs may be accompanied by one guide at a time to complete the course. Accommodations may be made if an AWD requires more than one guide at a time.
- Athletes are responsible for bringing their own guides to the race.
- Guides are not official entrants and are not timed, scored, or listed in the official results. If a guide wants to be officially timed, scored and listed in results, they need to register as a participant including paying entry fees.
- Guides participate free of charge, but must sign a waiver prior to participation.
- Athlete and guide are regarded as a team and must be together at all times along the course.
- Guides must wear a GUIDE bib on the front and back of their outermost layer, kept visible at all times.
- Guides may not use a bicycle or other mechanical means of transport.
- Guides cannot pull the athlete, or propel the athlete forward by pushing.
- Guides cannot mule for the athlete, or run ahead to aid stations to fill water bottles or otherwise unfairly advantage their athlete.

#### Guide Responsibilities

- Work with AWDs to ensure safety of the AWD. This includes communication between the AWD and guide when it comes to passing on the course.