

**Report to VSI Board of Directors: Jan 30, 2018**

Sean Harrington has had his second year anniversary at his job in Chesapeake Regional Medical Center, where he works in Materials Management. He frequently swims over 7,000 yards, at least three times a week, at the YMCA with his "own grueling sets.": Sean swam in a state club league meet as a guest of the VCU club swim team and he came in second place in the 500 yard freestyle. Event.

Joseph Peppersack is swimming for the University of Mary Washington, The men's team has won all of their meets but one in their conference.

Other Disability Swimmers in VSI include Paloma Wiles (Coach Ann Wood), Samantha Tubbs (she has been training in the Olympic Training Course in Colorado Springs),and Emilia Scovel (northern Virginia). As noted by her coach , Ann Woods, "Paloma Wiles is a wonderful young lady whom we all adore. She always has a smile on her face, and she always says that "practice was great today."

Our athlete representatives on the Disability Committee are Katie Nunez and Brianna Romney.

Other members of the Disability Committee include Coach Dalton Herendeen, Coach Art Anthony, Jessica Simons, Pat Donahue, Kim Downs Ray Tubbs, John Harrington, Sandy Peppersack Sean Harrington, and David Strider.

- USA Swimming Clubs each have a Local Swimming Committee (LSC) with a Disability Swimming chair who can be called on to provide information. Paralympic disabled swimmers fall into six categories: Amputee, cerebral palsy, visual impairment, spinal cord injuries, intellectual impairment, and Les Autres.
- Swimmers at the Paralympic Games are classified into 14 different classes. (New for London 2012 is the S14 class for athletes with a learning disability.)

- Swimmers with physical impairments are classified from S1 to S10. These are known as functional classifications because classification is based on how an athlete moves in the water.
- An athlete's classification may change for different swimming strokes because the nature of their impairment may affect their ability to perform a particular stroke.

As noted by Queenie Nichols, long time and well known Paralympic Swim Coach: "Water is one of big equalizers." One of the phrases is "We are all equal in the water and that is really true ! Athletes with disabilities, from below the knee amputations to severe quads, can compete and compete successfully.

Here is the Paralympics Swimming Schedule for Spring and early summer:

**March 2 - 3, 2018: Tri-State Regional Swim Meet**

**April 5 - 8, 2018: Canadian Swimming Championships**

**April 19 - 21, 2018: Indianapolis 2018 World Para Swimming World Series**

**April 20 - 21, 2018: Turnstone Endeavor Games**

**May 4 - 5, 2018: Dairyland Games**

**May 4 - 6, 2018: Texas Regionals**

**May 12 - 13, 2018: Cincinnati Para-Swimming Open**

**May 18 - 19, 2018: Gateway Games**

**May 18 - 19, 2018: Great Lakes Regional Games**

**May 31 - June 1, 2018: Thunder in the Valley Games**

**June 2 - 3, 2018: Jimi Flowers Classic**

Respectfully submitted"

David V Strider, Jr.

VSI Disability Committee Chairperson

