

Far West Regional Games could send 6 wheelchair athletes to Athens Olympics

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SAN JOSE (May 12, 2004) – Wheelchair athletes hoping to compete in this summer's Athens Olympic Games will begin their quest at the Far West Regional Games at San Jose City College.

The four-day Far West Regional Games for athletes with physical disabilities begin Thursday, May 20, in San Jose and will feature competition in archery, track and field, pentathlon, swimming and boccia.

"We're happy to host this event in San Jose highlighting the talents of disabled athletes, the first of three key pre-Olympic competitions in our city this year," said Dean Munro, executive director of the San Jose Sports Authority. "For many American athletes this summer, the road to Athens, Greece begins right here."

The featured events will be the 1500-meter wheelchair race for men and the 800-meter wheelchair race for women. They are the U.S. Trials for the Wheelchair Track Olympic Exhibition event, which will be part of the Athens Olympics, which begin Aug. 13. The top three finishers in each race will advance to the International Trials on July 1 and 2 in Atlanta, Ga.

In addition, the Far West Regional Games is the final event this year for athletes to achieve U.S. Paralympics qualifying standards in track and field for selection to the U.S. team that will compete in the Athens Paralympic Games, which open Sept. 17. The Paralympics are staged every four years as a companion event to the Olympic Games and traditionally are held in the Olympic city.

About U.S. Paralympics

U.S. Paralympics is a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee and is dedicated to becoming the world leader in the Paralympic sports movement and promoting excellence in the lives of persons with physical disabilities. For more information on U.S. Paralympics visit www.usparalympics.org.

2004 Far West Regional Games schedule

Day / Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday / May 20	1-6 p.m.	Registration and classification	SJCC racquetball courts
	4-5:30 p.m.	Track clinic	SJCC track
	5-7 p.m.	Dinner	SJCC
	5-8:30 p.m.	Archery	SJCC soccer field west
	6-9 p.m.	Pentathlon	SJCC soccer field & track
	6-7 p.m.	5000 meters	SJCC track
Friday / May 21	8-9 a.m.	U.S. Trials 1500m men	SJCC track
	8-9 a.m.	U.S. Trials 800m women	SJCC track
	9:30 a.m. -1 p.m.	Field events	SJCC soccer field
	12:30-2 p.m.	Lunch	SJCC
	2-7 p.m.	Track	SJCC track
	5-6:30 p.m.	Snacks	SJCC track
	7:30 p.m.	VIP reception and dance	San Jose Hilton
Saturday / May 22	10 a.m.-noon	Boccia clinic	Ida Price Community Center

	Noon-2 p.m.	Lunch	Ida Price Community Center
	1-5 p.m.	Boccia competition	Ida Price Community Center
	2-6 p.m.	Swimming	Ida Price Community Center
Sunday / May 23	9 a.m.-noon	Junior competition	SJCC