



**AUT SPORTS PERFORMANCE
RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEW ZEALAND**



DISABILITY SPORT IN COMMUNITY CLUBS

Prepared for Sport NZ

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**NATIONAL
SPORT CLUB
SURVEY**



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BACKGROUND

There is a gap in our collective knowledge about how disabled participants engage with New Zealand's community sport clubs. Therefore, disability sport was a key focus of the 2023 National Sport Club Survey (NSCS). This in line with Sport New Zealand's priority of building "a system-wide capability to deliver better outcomes for disabled people."

Questions of various types including yes/no, scaled and open-text were included in the 2023 NSCS. In the following pages of this high-level report, key insights are provided as well as a discussion of implications.

The NSCS generates an annual snapshot of the management, operation and governance of New Zealand's 7500 sport clubs. It is run through a partnership between the Sport Performance Research Institute New Zealand (SPRINZ) and the New Zealand Amateur Sport Association (NZASA). In 2023, 800 clubs participated in the NSCS across 80 sports and all 16 regions of New Zealand. Chairs, presidents, secretaries, and other leaders complete the NSCS on behalf of their club.



**DOES YOUR CLUB ASK
MEMBERS ABOUT
PHYSICAL OR
INTELLECTUAL
IMPAIRMENT?**



29%

**OF CLUBS ASK
MEMBERS ABOUT
PHYSICAL OR
INTELLECTUAL
IMPAIRMENT**

37%

Of clubs with a **paid administrator** ask members about physical or intellectual impairment

**SMALLER
CLUBS**

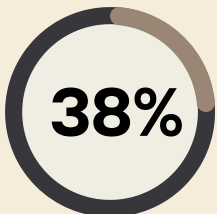
are more likely to ask members about physical or intellectual impairment



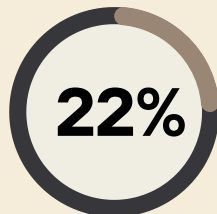
DOES YOUR CLUB ASK MEMBERS ABOUT PHYSICAL OR INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT?



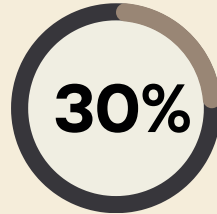
AUCKLAND



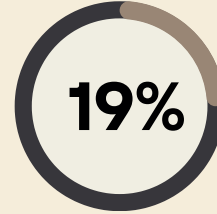
WELLINGTON



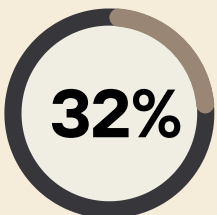
CANTERBURY



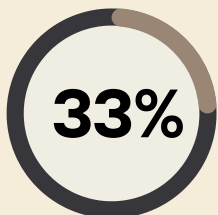
SOUTHLAND



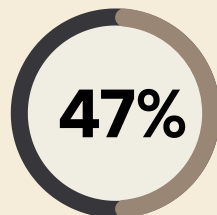
ATHLETICS



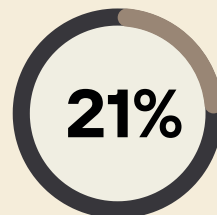
CRICKET



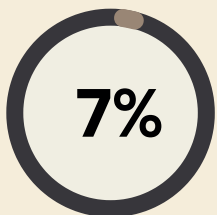
EQUESTRIAN



GOLF



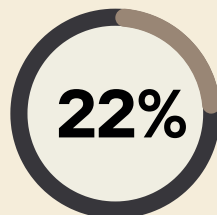
HOCKEY



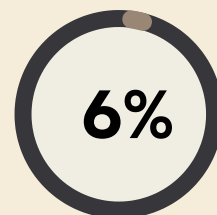
NETBALL



RUGBY



TENNIS



68%

OF CLUB BOARDS DISCUSS
MATTERS RELATED TO
DISABILITY SPORT RARELY OR
NOT AT ALL

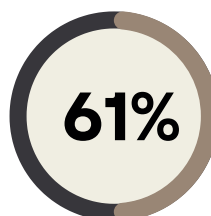


**HAS YOUR CLUB TAKEN STEPS TO
INCLUDE DISABLED SPORT PARTICIPANTS
IN YOUR CLUB?**

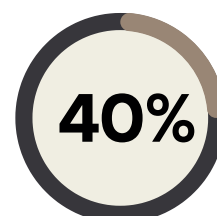
55%

OF CLUBS HAVE TAKEN
STEPS TO INCLUDE
DISABLED SPORT
PARTICIPANTS IN THEIR
CLUB.

INDIVIDUAL
SPORTS



TEAM
SPORTS





HAS YOUR CLUB TAKEN STEPS TO INCLUDE DISABLED PEOPLE?

For those who said 'yes' (55%) and when asked to describe the most common steps included:

- Specialised and/or modified equipment
- Accessible club facilities
- Tailored events and/or programs
- Upskilling coaches

"We encourage people with disabilities to use equipment that helps them compete, e.g. bowling arms and walking sticks"

- Bowls Club, Waikato

"We do a "crickstars" programme that is designed for disabled kids on a Sunday"

- Cricket Club, Auckland

"We are upskilling members and surrounding coaches to disabled weightlifting to develop connections and awareness to participate in the sport with disabilities"

- Weightlifting Club, Manawatū-Wanganui



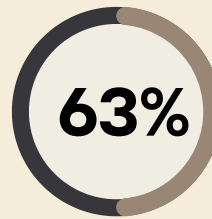
IN YOUR CLUB, IS THERE OPPORTUNITY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE TO ENGAGE ALONGSIDE NON-DISABLED PEOPLE ?



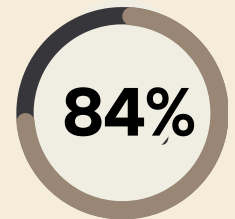
78%

OF CLUBS SAY THEY PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE TO ENGAGE ALONGSIDE NON-DISABLED PEOPLE

TEAM SPORTS



INDIVIDUAL SPORTS



LARGER CLUBS

Larger clubs are less likely to provide opportunities for disabled people to engage alongside non-disabled people





IS THERE OPPORTUNITY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE TO ENGAGE ALONGSIDE NON-DISABLED PEOPLE?

"Source equipment and training methods to allow disabled to compete alongside our other paddlers. We have utilised special seats and training methods to allow them to compete and train"

- Waka Ama Club, Bay of Plenty

For those who said 'yes' (78%) the ways in which this works include:

- Providing alternative equipment
- Teams selected based on ability not disability
- Partnering with non-disabled 'buddies'

"Strategic lane choice, reduced distances, a buddy to run alongside and keep track of laps to go, lighter throw weights, running in a grade below (athlete choice)"

- Athletics Club, Auckland

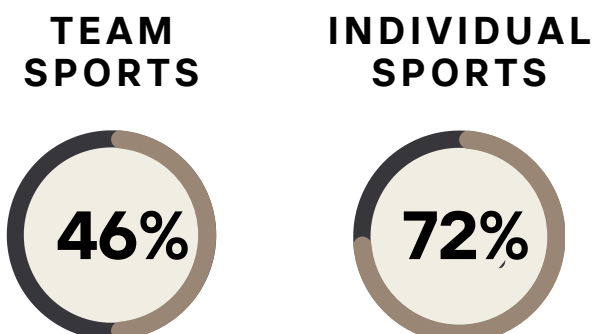
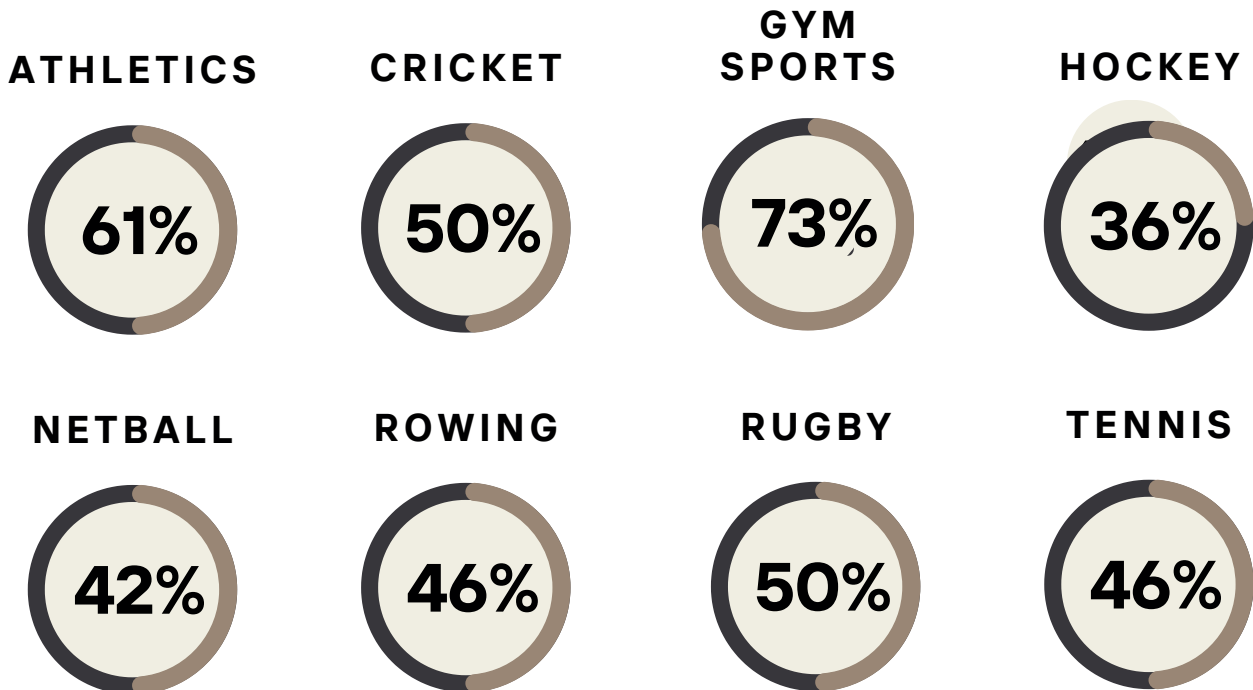
"The disabled person has a 'buddy' assigned to them in each class. This is often a volunteer, but everyone takes their turn"

- Karate Club, Southland



65%

OF CLUBS SAY THEY PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE TO ENGAGE ALONGSIDE OTHER DISABLED PEOPLE.



LARGER CLUBS

Larger clubs are less likely to provide opportunities for disabled people to engage alongside other disabled people



**IS THERE
OPPORTUNITY FOR
DISABLED PEOPLE
TO ENGAGE
ALONGSIDE
OTHER DISABLED
PEOPLE?**

For those who said 'yes' (65%) the ways in which this works include:

- Partnering with other disabled people
- Tailored events, programs, and/or class for disabled people

"We have dedicated boats, doubles that allow two disabled people to row together"

- Rowing Club, Auckland

"Weekly therapy classes for all children with disabilities"

- Gymnastics Club, Northland

"We are launching a Sunday morning programme, specifically for people living with disabilities encouraging them into a team sport"

- Cricket Club, Auckland



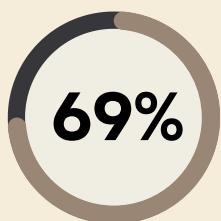


DO YOU SEE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR CLUB TO WORK WITH YOUR RDSO ON AN EVENT, PROGRAM OR INITIATIVE?

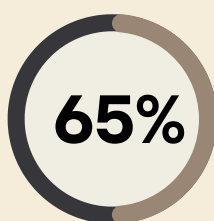
56%

OF CLUBS SEE AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH THEIR REGIONAL DISABILITY SPORT ORGANISATIONS ON AN EVENT, PROGRAM OR INITIATIVE

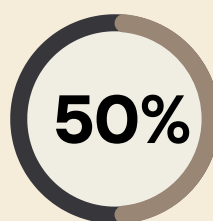
NORTHLAND



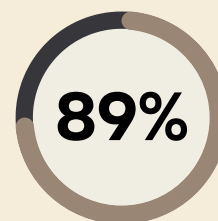
AUCKLAND



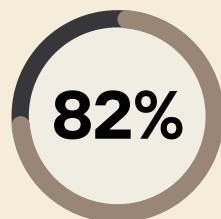
WELLINGTON



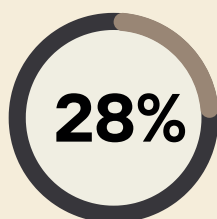
TASMAN



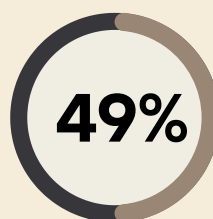
NELSON



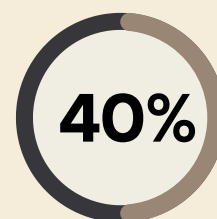
WEST COAST



CANTERBURY



OTAGO





DO YOU SEE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR CLUB TO WORK WITH YOUR RDSO ON AN EVENT, PROGRAM, OR INITIATIVE?

"We would love to launch a programme delivering some adapted football, but don't really know where to start"

- Football Club, Auckland

For those who said 'yes' (56%) the opportunities discussed include:

- Hosting a tournament or event
- Running a program, session, or 'have-a-go' day
- Provision of resources

"By providing boats and some personnel to assist with any sailing activity for the disabled"

- Yachting Club, Southland

"We are currently working with Special Olympics Waipa branch to run a programme to get more participants and tutors"

- Bowls Club, Waikato



HOW CONFIDENT ARE LEADERS AND DELIVERERS OF SPORT IN YOUR CLUB AT MEETING THE NEEDS OF DISABLED PEOPLE ?



14%

OF CLUBS SAY IT IS ESSENTIAL, OR A HIGH PRIORITY, TO ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE IN THEIR COMMUNITY

34%

Of clubs are fairly or completely confident that their leaders and deliverers are able to meet the needs of disabled people

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

Clubs are more confident than team sport clubs that their leaders and deliverers of are able to meet the needs of disabled people



WHAT IS YOUR CLUB DOING TO ADDRESS ANY BARRIERS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE IN YOUR CLUB?

40%

OF CLUBS SAY THEY DO NOT HAVE ANY BARRIERS THAT NEED ADDRESSING FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

PROGRAMS

Are seen as a key barriers in high participation sports such as cricket, netball and hockey

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

Clubs are more likely to believe they have no barriers that need addressing for disabled people





WHAT IS YOUR CLUB DOING TO ADDRESS ANY BARRIERS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE IN YOUR CLUB?

The key themes were:

- Building community
- Providing new and/or adapted equipment
- Providing accessible facilities
- Improving coach capabilities

"Equipment can be adapted for each individual as required so when we have people wanting to join the club, we can then work with them on the most appropriate equipment for them"

- Archery Club, Auckland

"We have built suitable facilities and continue to engage with disabled members to access further opportunities"

- Cycling Club, Taranaki

"Encouraging learning and development within the coaching team"

- Swimming Club, Canterbury





INSIGHTS FROM DISENGAGED AND/OR INACTIVE CLUBS

A number of clubs replied 'no' to the preceding questions, but did provide an open text insight.

Key themes include:

- No need
- No demand
- Not enough resources
- Hasn't been raised

“Those with other disabilities are often accompanied by their staff/caregivers around the course and no further input is required. All our facilities seem to cater to all”

- Golf Club, Auckland

“We don't believe there are sufficient numbers of disabled cyclists wanting to race on open public roads”

- Cycling Club, Wellington

“We've never thought to discuss this issue as we have not had any members as yet that have had any known disability or otherwise”

- Hockey Club, Canterbury



SUMMARY

- Less than 1/3 of clubs ask members about physical and intellectual impairments.
- More than 2/3 of club boards discuss disability matters rarely or not at all.
- More than 1/2 clubs have taken steps to include disabled sport participants.
- More than 1/2 clubs see an opportunity to work with their RDSO.
- More than 1/3 clubs are fairly or completely confident about meeting the needs of disabled people.



SPORTS

Sports represented in the 2023 National Sport Club Survey.

AFL	Inline Hockey	Swimming
Aikido	Jiu-Jitsu	Syncro / Artistic
American Football	Judo	Swimming
Archery	Karate	Table Tennis
Athletics & Harriers	KartSport	Taekwon-do
Badminton	Kendo	Tennis
Baseball	Kung Fu Wushu	Tenpin Bowling
Basketball	Lacrosse	Touch Rugby
Billiard Sports	Marching	Triathlon
Blind Sports	Mini Golf	Ultimate Frisbee
Bowls (Outdoor)	Motorcycling	Underwater Hockey
Bowls (Indoor)	MotorSport	Volleyball
Boxing	Netball	Waka Ama
Bridge	Offroad	Water Polo
Canoeing	Orienteering	Water Skiing
Cheer Union	ParaSport	Weightlifting
Climbing	Petanque	Wrestling
Cricket	Polo	Yachting
Croquet	Polocrosse	
Curling	Pony Club	
Cycling	Powerlifting	
Darts	Rodeo	
Disability Sports	Rowing	
Diving	Rugby League	
Dragon Boating	Rugby Union	
Equestrian Sports	Skate	
Fencing	Shooting (Clay Target)	
Floorball	Shooting (Pistol)	
Flying	Shooting (Rifle)	
Football	Shooting (Target)	
Gliding	Snow Sports	
Golf	Softball	
GymSports	Special Olympics	
Handball	Speedway	
Hang Gliding	Sport Fishing	
Hockey	Squash	
Ice Figure Skating	Surf Life Saving	
Ice Hockey	Surfing	



GLOSSARY

Club Size	Smaller and Larger club are based on the national average of club size (n= 203).
Disability	A disability is any long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment.
Parasport	Parasport is a general term for organised sports that are adapted for disabled people. For the purpose of this report, parasports are specifically those sports that are represented at the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games. A complete list of these sports can be found at www. paralympics.org.nz
RDSO	Regional Disability Sport Organisation
Team Sports vs Others	Team Sports are those sports that can only be played in team format (i.e. Rugby), the 'Others' category includes clubs offering primarily individual sports, although some can be played in a team (i.e. tennis pairs, relay swimming)



DISABILITY SPORT IN COMMUNITY CLUBS

There is a gap in our collective knowledge about how disabled participants engage with New Zealand's community sport clubs. Therefore, disability sport was a key focus of the 2023 National Sport Club Survey (NSCS).

The NSCS generates an annual snapshot of the management, operation and governance of New Zealand's 7500 sport clubs.



29%

Of clubs ask members about physical or intellectual impairment.

55%

Of clubs have taken steps to include disabled sport participants in their club.



Steps include:

- Specialised and/or modified equipment
- Accessible club facilities
- Tailored events and/or programs
- Upskilling coaches

68%

Of club boards discuss matters related to disability sport 'rarely' or 'not at all'.

14%

Of clubs say it is 'essential' or a 'priority' to enhance opportunities for disabled people in their community.



78%

Of clubs say they provide opportunities for disabled people to engage alongside non-disabled people.



Engagement opportunities include:

- Partnering with non-disabled 'buddies'
- Teams selected based on ability not disability

40%

Of clubs say they have no barriers that need addressing for disabled people.

For clubs that are addressing barriers, some of these include:

- Building community
- Providing new and/or adapted equipment
- Providing accessible facilities
- Improving coach capabilities



34%

Of clubs are 'fairly' or 'completely' confident that their leaders and deliverers are able to meet the needs of disabled people.