

Sports Center for Workers with Disabilities

1. Establishment

In October 1976, this center was jointly built by the Akita Prefectural government and the Employment and Human Resources Development Organization of Japan. It is aimed to improve welfare and to enhance worker's volition through sports, while promoting and disseminating sports activities for workers with disabilities.

2. Management and Operations

In April 1977, the management of the facility was entrusted to Akita Prefectural Association for Employment Promotion of Persons with Disabilities by the Akita Prefectural government.

In April 2006, according to the Designated Administer System, the Akita Prefectural Association for Employment Development (merged with the Akita Prefectural Association for Employment Promotion of Persons with Disabilities) was selected as a designated administer and it is responsible for the center's management and operations.

3. Facilities

(1) Building

① Gymnasium

1 basketball court, 2 badminton courts, 2 volleyball courts, 2 dodge ball courts, 2 gateball courts, 6 pairs of equipments for mat exercise, 8 table-tennis equipments, indoor baseball equipments.

② Training room

③ Locker rooms (for men and women)

④ Clerical office

⑤ Others (restrooms, storage room, and machine room)

The building is designed accessible. The entrance and exits are equipped with slope and automatic doors, all the corridors in the building have handrails, the locker rooms are equipped with showers and the toilets are accessible for the wheelchair users. The entire building is also facilitated with heaters so that the users can safely enjoy sports throughout a year, even in the winter.

(2) Outdoors Athletic Field

200-meter track, sports field for different types of sports, wheelchair practice route (a paved 400-meter course), spectator stands

4. Operating Hours and Holidays

(1) Operating Hours

Weekdays: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 Sundays and Holidays: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(2) Days Closed

Every Wednesday, the day after a national holiday, from December 29 to January 3

(3) Application to Use the Center

All persons are required to fill in an application form. Applications through phone calls and fax are also accepted. Non-disabled persons may also use the facility if it is not in use by persons with disabilities or if there are no reservations.

(4) Usage Fee

There is no charge.

(5) Equipment

Except for certain sports, the equipments are available at the center for the users.

5. Number of Users

In the fiscal year 2005, 19,276 persons used the center, of which 8,057 were persons with disabilities. To classify the users according to the kinds of sport, there were 1,271 users in basketball, 1,684 users in gate ball, 1,187 users in table tennis, 1,273 users in volleyball, 536 users in archery, 8,923 users in general physical education, and 4,402 users in outdoor exercises.

Number of Users of the Center according to the Sports and the Fiscal Years

Unit: person

Sport/Fiscal Year	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005
Basketball	1,601	1,084	828	1,271
Gateball	1,591	813	1,309	1,684
Ping pong	1,436	1,457	1,306	1,187
Volleyball	1,733	1,186	1,486	1,273
General physical education	5,790	8,731	10,243	8,923
Archery		342	496	536
Playing field	4,007	4,933	3,547	4,402
Total	16,158	18,546	19,216	19,276 (of which 8,057 were persons with disabilities)
Comparison with the previous fiscal year	2,561	2,388	670	60

Note: The number of users in FY2005 is as of FY March 2006.