



## UK SPORTS ASSOCIATION For People with Learning Disability

### NEWS RELEASE

- For Immediate Release -

#### **Multi Medallist, Nicholas Boylan to raise flag in London 2012 Handover Ceremony**



To celebrate the handover of the London 2012 Games from Beijing, Great Britain Swimmer, Nicholas Boylan, 24, from Ashford in Kent has been selected by the Borough Council to raise the 2012 flag at a Ceremony in Ashford on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

The Local Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) invited Ashford Borough Council to host a local Ceremony. Recognising Nicholas as one of their most successful residents, the flag raising honour and that of Sporting Ambassador for Active Ashford, the Borough's Sports Partnership was bestowed on this swimmer with learning disability.

*"I'm really happy" says Nicholas Boylan, "but a bit nervous as well".*

*"This is a high profile event" says Simon Harris, Senior Sports Operation Development Officer. "With the Games on our doorstep and just 4 years away, there's real excitement for the Country and locally here in Ashford especially as 4 venues have been selected as possible pre Olympic Games training camps and also a Paralympic Training Camp at the Stour Centre I'm delighted Nick is going to be part of the Ceremony so we can let the people of Ashford see his achievements and what a talent he is".*

Attending on the day will be the Mayor of Ashford and Cllr Clarkson, the borough's Portfolio Holder for Culture and Sport. The Ceremony starts at 2.00pm at the Civic Centre, Ashford Borough Council and coincides with the Stour Centre's "free swim" day.

*"My congratulations to Nicholas, I know he will be a great Sports Ambassador as he claims his piece of history as part of the celebrations welcoming the Games to the UK", comments Tracey McCillen, National Director, UK Sports Association for People with*

Learning Disability. *"It's a busy month for him as he will just have returned from the INAS-FID European Swimming Championships in Poland. I would like to wish him well in the Championships and hope that he will have the flag ceremony and many other reasons aswell to celebrate on the 24<sup>th</sup> as I'm sure he will do a great job again on the Great Britain Team!"*

Nicholas Boylan's greatest moments include winning a number of individual medals and the 4 x 200m Freestyle relay at the INAS-FID World Championships in Belgium 2007, where the team broke the World Record by 18 seconds plus winning two individual gold medals at the 2006 INAS-FID European Swimming Championships in Hungary.



LOCOG as part of the handover celebrations have invited all Boroughs in England to host a handover flag raising ceremony on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

The ban on athletes with intellectual disability competing in the Paralympic Games continues. The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the International Sports Federation (INAS-FID) continue to discuss how and when athletes with intellectual disability will be re-admitted. There will be no programme for athletes with intellectual disability in 2008 Paralympics in Beijing. The situation for London 2012 remains undecided.

The UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability (UKSA), working with its members and other organisations across the UK, has been leading a campaign since 2001 for the ban to be lifted. UKSA continues to urge LOCOG and MP's to use their influence to have the ban overturned in time for London 2012 and for Government to address the lack of funding for athletes across the UK as a result of the continued IPC ban.

**ENDS**

4th August 2008

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For further information and a full Sports Profile, contact Tracey McCillen, National Director, UK Sports Association, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 12 City Forum, 250 City Road, London EC1V 2PU. Tel: (+44) 0207 490 3057 Fax: (+44) 0207 251 8861. Email: [info@uksportsassociation.org](mailto:info@uksportsassociation.org) . 07710 455 067 (out of hours)

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#### **NOTES TO EDITOR**

1. The UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability (UKSA) is the disability specific National Governing Body in the UK for sport and people with learning disability. UKSA is a national umbrella charity that co-ordinates and promotes sport and recreation for all people with learning disability across the UK. UKSA is recognised by

UK Sport and is the official Great Britain member of the International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID), a member of IPC. UKSA selects and manages athletes to the Great Britain (Learning Disability) Team to international competition.

2. UKSA's members are Scottish Disability Sport, Welsh Sports Association for People with Learning Disability, Disability Sports Northern Ireland and Mencap Sport in England. All are working together through UKSA to ensure that this group of athletes compete in the Paralympic Games.
3. INAS-FID, the International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability. Founded in 1986, is a member of the International Paralympic Committee and is the body responsible for the international competition for athletes with intellectual disability. See [www.inas-fid.org](http://www.inas-fid.org) for more details on the 2008 European Swimming Championships 16-22<sup>nd</sup> August 2008 in Poland.
4. The ban on athletes with learning disability was imposed by the IPC following an incident at the Sydney Paralympic Games in 2000 when a group of adult non-disabled athletes infiltrated the Spanish learning disability basketball team. The IPC banned every athlete with learning disability across the world from competing at future Paralympics and IPC sanctioned competitions as a result. This has had the additional impact of funding being stopped across the UK and some athletes not having the financial means to continue in their sport. UKSA has since Sydney 2000 been working with the British Paralympic Association, INAS-FID the Equality and Human Rights Commission and others have the IPC ban removed.
5. For further details on Ashford Borough Councils Handover Ceremony contact Simon Harris, Ashford Borough Council Tel: 01233 330232 Mobile: 07879 486805 Email: [simon.harris@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:simon.harris@ashford.gov.uk) Website: [www.ashford.gov.uk/sport](http://www.ashford.gov.uk/sport)
6. Learning Disability is a term used in the UK. It is more commonly known as intellectual disability internationally. Both refer to the same group of athletes.