**Running Strategies for Individuals with Visual Impairments**

**Guide Running**

* Runner holds the elbow of the guide runner OR

runner runs with guide runner using a tether (runner’s preference)

* Guide runner should be faster than the runner who is Visually Impaired.
* It is helpful if both the runner and guide runner are similar in height.
* Communication is key, the guide must encourage the runner.

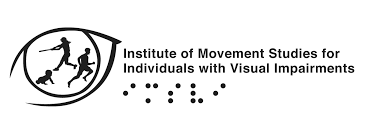
**Tether Running**

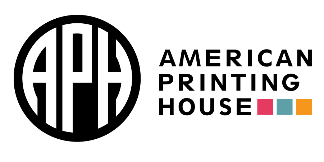
* The tether will have two knots, one on each end so that both runners put the rope in between their fingers to maintain contact.
* The length of the tether is approximately 1-2 feet, depending on individual preference and width of running space.
* The tether should have minimal elasticity. “Smiley Face” dip.

****

**Circular Running**

* Using a stake and a rope, this allows the runner to run in a small area.
* The runner pulls the rope tight and runs in a circle around the stake.
* The inner leg automatically supports more weight, so the runner should change direction mid-way through their run.
* The length of the rope simply depends on the size of the running space.

****

****

**Guidewire Running**

* Anything that would serve as an anchor point for the wire to be tied will work (hurdles, poles). The guide wire can be 30-100 feet long,
* The guidewire should be tight at all times and should be checked before each use.
* The guidewire should be at elbow height of the runner.
* Use a carabiner with looped rope clipped onto the wire, this allows the runner to move their arm back and forth using correct form (instead of holding the rope directly).
* A tactile indicator as well as an auditory sound source should signal the end of the wire for the runner to be aware of.

**Running to a Sound Source**

* Music connected to a speaker at the finish line.
* Someone clapping or have a sound source such as keys or a bell so the runner can follow the sound.
* The guide can be behind, beside or in front of the runner giving verbal instruction/cues.

**Treadmill Running**

* Allows for physical guidance from the coach.
* Tactile modeling can be used to allow the runner to feel their coach going through the running technique and experience the rhythm.
* For safety, handrails are recommended to inform the athlete when they are drifting to the left or right.
* Runners can keep track of their distance/time.

**Sources:**

Delillo, J. (2017, February 13). Running without sight, for a cause. Retrieved from

<https://www.perkins.org/stories/running-without-sight-for-a-cause>

Guide running for beginners. (2016, May 18). Retrieved from

<https://www.rnib.org.uk/rnibconnect/health-and-wellbeing/guide-running>

Instructional Materials. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.campabilities.org/instructional-materials.html>

Lieberman, L. J., & Haibach, P. S. (2016). *Gross Motor Development Curriculum for Children for Visual Impairments*. Louisville, KY: American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.

Lieberman, L. J., & Haley. Schedlin. (n.d.). *WalkRun For Fitness*. Retrieved from

<https://www.aph.org/files/manuals/7-07520-00.pdf>