



Glossary

Accredited Program(s): Any National Program, U.S. Program, Sub-Program, or other organization accredited by or through SOI's authority to organize and conduct Special Olympics training and competition programs within a particular jurisdiction.

Advancement to higher levels of competition: Athletes of all ability levels have an equal opportunity to advance to the next higher level competition provided the sport and event are offered at the next highest level of competition. Priority is given to first place finishers from all divisions of the sport/event. If the number of first place finishers exceeds the quota, athletes or teams are selected to advance by random draw.

Brackets: Tournament play where teams are matched against each other based on ability, record or results from pool play. Winning teams advance to play each other until a tournament champion is decided. Can be one of many formats such as single elimination or double elimination style.

Competition Director: Special Olympics staff member or key volunteer responsible for the organization of all or specific Games.

Delegation: A local Special Olympics team or training program.

Divisioning: A key feature of Special Olympics sports is the organization of participants' abilities. This process called divisioning affords athletes an equal chance to succeed in a variety of situations and provides for more meaningful experiences. Athletes may be divisioned by gender, age and ability.

Games: Any Special Olympics Summer Games and/or Special Olympics Winter Games offered or conducted by SOI, a GOC, an Accredited Program, or any other organization or entity licensed by SOI to conduct Games under the name or auspices of Special Olympics in which there is competition in three (3) or more Official Sports.

Games Organizing Committee (GOC): Individually and collectively, the Games Organizing Committee(s) is licensed and authorized by SOI to organize, finance and conduct specific World Games, National and/or any other SOI-sanctioned competitions.

Games Rules Committee (GRC) (Jury of Appeals): The Games Rules Committee is responsible for overseeing that the Games are run in accordance with the Special Olympics General Rules and Special Olympics Sports Rules. All appeals decisions made by the Sports Rules Committers are forwarded for decision to the Games Rules Committee for final ruling.

General Orientation to Special Olympics: An introductory Special Olympics course required for coaches certification.

Head of Delegation (HOD): The local Special Olympics Program coordinator and liaison to their State / Regional Provincial Program.

Healthy Athletes (HA): The Healthy Athlete Program provides health screenings and education for Special Olympics athletes in seven areas: Fit Feet (podiatry), FUNfitness (physical therapy), Health Promotion (better health and well-being), Healthy Hearing (audiology), MedFest (sports physical exam), Opening Eyes (vision) and Special Smiles (dentistry).

Individual Skills Competition (ISC): Level of competition provided for athletes who are not yet ready for team competition.

Intellectual Disability (ID) and Eligibility for Special Olympics: A person is considered to have an intellectual disability for purposes of determining his or her eligibility to participate in Special Olympics if that person satisfies any one of the following requirements:

- (1) The person has been identified by an agency or professional as having an intellectual disability as determined by their localities; or
- (2) The person has a cognitive delay, as determined by standardized measures such as intelligent quotient or "IQ" testing or other measures which are generally accepted within the professional community in that Accredited Program's nation as being a reliable measurement of the existence of a cognitive delay; or
- (3) The person has a closely related developmental disability. A "closely related developmental disability" means having functional limitations in both general learning (such as IQ) and in adaptive skills (such as in recreation, work, independent living, self-direction, or self-care). However, persons whose functional limitations are based solely on a physical, behavioral, or emotional disability, or a specific learning or sensory disability, are not eligible to participate as Special Olympics athletes, but may be eligible to volunteer for Special Olympics.

International Olympic Committee (IOC): The governing body of the Olympic Movement. Through a Protocol of Agreement signed on February 15, 1988, the IOC officially recognized Special Olympics International (SOI) and agreed to cooperate with SOI as a representative of the interests of athletes with intellectual disabilities.

International Sports Federation (ISF) & National Governing Body (NGB): International Sports Federations are organizations which are recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the world governing bodies for their respective sports. These International Sports Federations comprise, in turn, National Sports Governing Bodies, which govern and oversee particular sports within their respective countries.

Maximum Effort: If a Competition Manager determines that an athlete or team has not competed with maximum effort in preliminary and/or divisioning rounds with the clear intent to gain an unfair advantage in the divisioning process, he/she has the right to sanction that athlete or team. Sanctions may include: Verbal Warning to the player and/or coach, adjusted division placement, final placement or disqualification.

Medal rounds: The final round of competition, which results in the awarding (or medaling) of each team.

Pool play: The initial round of competition within a tournament to ensure each team has been placed in the correct competition division. Pool play results do not impact team awarding.

Protective Behaviors: An online training which provides education intended to prevent physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Required for coaches certification in North America.

Project UNIFY: An education-based project that uses sports and education programs to activate young people to develop school communities where all youth are agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities.

Skills Assessment Tests (SATs): Individual evaluations administered to Special Olympics athletes and Unified Partners to determine their sport ability.

Social Inclusion: When people with disabilities are integrated into common environments where they are accepted for their own unique talents and given opportunities to build self-confidence, life skills and new relationships.

SOI Sports Rules: The document entitled "Official Special Olympics Sports Rules," which is issued periodically by SOI for the use of all Accredited Programs and GOCs in conducting training and competition in each Official Sport, as amended and updated from time to time by SOI. SOI Sports Rules are posted at www.SpecialOlympics.org.

SONA University Curriculum Program: The Special Olympics North America University Curriculum consists of Special Olympics courses that can be incorporated into university curricula. These courses include the current courses within the Special Olympics Coach Education System and Games Management Training. Through the *Special Olympics North America University Curriculum*, universities assist with the training of coaches and sport managers and gain invaluable field experience (service learning) opportunities for their students. A joint partnership between universities and Special Olympics Programs maximizes human and material resources. These resources will stimulate growth, interest and understanding of Special Olympics and coaching or sport management in general.

Special Olympics athlete: A person at least eight years of age with an intellectual disability, who is registered, trains and competes with Special Olympics.

Special Olympics General Rules: Provides current and consolidated guidance to all accredited Special Olympics Programs.

Special Olympics International or Special Olympics, Inc (SOI): SOI is the creator of Special Olympics, a program founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, SOI's own founder. SOI is the international governing body of the Special Olympics Movement. The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Special Olympics Regions: SOI is divided into seven geographic areas throughout the world with support staff located in each area. Regions include: Africa (SOA), Asia Pacific (SOAP), East Asia (SOEA), Europe Eurasia (SOEE), Latin American (SOLA), Middle East North Africa (SOMENA) and North America (SONA).

Special Olympics Traditional: Sports training and competition which takes place solely with Special Olympics athletes with an intellectual disability.

Special Olympics Unified Sports®: A program that combines Special Olympics athletes and athletes without intellectual disabilities (partners) on sports teams for training and competition. Age and ability level matching of Special Olympics athletes and partners, and the Special Olympics athletes/partner ratios are defined on a sport-by-sport basis, in accordance with the Sports Rules.

Sport Committee or Management Team (SMT): The Sports committee is responsible for organizing and conducting the sport-specific competitions at a Special Olympics competition or Games. They may be also charged with developing a sport within an Accredited Program.

Sport Manager: Special Olympics staff or key volunteer responsible for the technical oversight of a specific sport and the competition, development and training within a that sport.

Sports Rules Committee (SRC): The Sports Rules Committee is responsible for overseeing that the Games are run in accordance with the National Governing Body rules and Special Olympics Sports Rules. All protests by participants for a specific sport are brought to the Sports Rules Committee. Any appeals of the decision are forwarded to the Games Rules Committee which is the final say.

Technical Delegate (TD) – Is the key sport advisor for a specific sport and shall be responsible for ensuring that the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) of a Games correctly interprets, implements and enforces Special Olympics Sports Rules and modifications, the rules of the relevant National Governing Body (NGB) and current rule changes. The TD shall advise the GOC Sport Commissioner on the technical requirements of the specific sport to ensure a safe, quality and dignified sports environment.

Training Director: Special Olympics staff member or key volunteer responsible for coaches education.

Unified Sports Curriculum: A credited and inclusive physical education (PE) curriculum which aligns with Special Olympics Unified Sports training and competition standards.

Unified Sports Interscholastic Program: Unified Sports sanctioned by the State Interscholastic High School Athletic Association.

Unified Sports Partner: A person at least eight years of age without an intellectual disability, who is registered, trains and competes in Special Olympics Unified Sports.

Unified Sports Player Development: A Unified Sports model where teammates are not required to be of similar abilities. Teammates of higher abilities serve as mentors to assist teammates of lower abilities in developing sport-specific skills and tactics, and in successfully participating in a cooperative team environment. Athletes and partners should be of similar age. However, a greater variance in age is allowed in specific sports.

Unified Sports Recreation: Provides less structured or more informal opportunities for athletes and partners to enjoy inclusive recreational sports. This recreational model can provide participants initial exposure to an inclusive sports experience, which may lead to Unified Sports or Unified Sports Player Development.

Volunteer Director: Special Olympics staff or key volunteer responsible for recruiting, training, managing and recognizing volunteers.

Young Athletes Program (YAP): A unique sport and play program for children with intellectual disabilities. The focus is on fun activities that are important to mental and physical growth. Children ages 2 1/2 to 7 enjoy games and activities that develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Young Athletes is an early introduction to sports and to the world of Special Olympics.

Frequently used Special Olympics acronyms:

AAPHERD	American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
AHOD	Assistant Head of Delegation
ALPs	Athlete Leadership Programs
AMT	Area Management Team
ARC	The Arc (formerly: Association for Retarded Citizens)
ASEP	American Sport Education Program
BOD	Board of Directors
DD	Developmental Disabilities
DOE	Department of Education
EKS	Eunice Kennedy Shriver
ELN	Education Leaders Network
GAC	Global Athlete Census
GII	Get Into It (Schools Curriculum)
GMS	Games Management System
GMT	Games Management Team
GOC	Games Organizing Committee
HA	Healthy Athletes
HOD	Head of Delegation
HS	High School
ID	Intellectual Disability
IEP	Individualized Education Plan
IOC	International Olympic Committee
LETR	Law Enforcement Torch Run
MATP	Motor Activities Training Program
NASPE	National Association for Sport and Physical Education
NDSC	National Down Syndrome Congress
NELN	National Education Leaders Network
NFHS	National Federation of High Schools
NGB	National Governing Body
PARS	Program Assistance Review System
PDS	Program Development System
POC	Principles of Coaching Course
PU	Project UNIFY
RSS	Sargent Shriver (Robert Sargent Shriver)
SDT	Sport Development Team
SOA	Special Olympics Africa
SOAP	Special Olympics Asia Pacific
SOEA	Special Olympics East Asia

SOEE	Special Olympics Europe Eurasia
SOGII	Special Olympics Get Into It (Schools Curriculum)
SOI	Special Olympics, Inc.
SOLA	Special Olympics Latin America
SOMENA	Special Olympics Middle East North Africa
SONA	Special Olympics North America
STWTETW	Spread the Word to End the Word (R-Word Campaign)
TPS	Timothy P. Shriver
USLC	United States Leadership Council
USOC	United States Olympic Committee
YAC	Youth Activation Committee