

**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.

**Integrated Direct Marketing Program (IDMP):** Direct marketing program that Special Olympics Iowa takes place in with SOI. SOI does all the direct marketing to donors including annual solicitations, information brochures and other communications across all markets (direct mail, e-mail, web based, phone, etc).

**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.](http://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.

**Stakeholder Conversion:** The sharing of Special Olympics Iowa’s list with SOI for IDMP.

**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

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

VSYS Volunteer Management System

YAC Youth Activation Committe