

FACT SHEET



Special Olympics

New Jersey

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW JERSEY

is a statewide, sports training and athletic competition program that provides year-round opportunities to children and adults with intellectual disabilities to participate in sports.

COMPETITION OFFERINGS

Special Olympics Inc. has approved twenty-four Olympic sports for participation by individuals with intellectual disabilities. **Special Olympics New Jersey** offers twenty-four (including Motor Activities) as Chapter-level competitions.

Special Olympics New Jersey conducts four major events annually: **Fall Sports Festival, Winter Games, Spring Sports Festival, and Summer Games.** Sectional and Area competitions are conducted for qualification for advancement to the four major events.

IN NEW JERSEY, ATHLETES PARTICIPATE IN:

FALL:



Cycling
Equestrian
Flag Football
Golf
Soccer
Volleyball



SPRING:

Basketball
Bowling
Motor Activities Training



WINTER:

Skiing (Alpine)
Skiing (Cross-Country)
Floor Hockey
Skating (Figure)
Skating (Speed)
Snowboarding
Snowshoeing



SUMMER:

Aquatics
Bocce
Gymnastics
Powerlifting
Sailing
Softball
Tennis
Track & Field



LEVELS OF COMPETITION

Athletes advance to higher levels of competition as described below through criteria established by the previous level of competition in accordance with Special Olympics policies and procedures.

Area Events

Area events are where the majority of athletes compete throughout the year and must be conducted according to Special Olympics Rules and Board policies. Competition must be conducted according to the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules and the National Governing Bodies.

Invitational Events

Invitational events may be conducted to include two or more Local Training Programs or Areas. These events do not qualify athletes for advancement in their sport, but simply serve as another competition opportunity.

Sectional Events

Sectional events will be conducted as qualifiers in order to meet the criteria for athletes to advance to Chapter level competition. Competition is conducted in compliance with Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.

Chapter Events

Chapter events showcase the skills and accomplishments of the Special Olympics athletes, and, therefore, athletes must be well-trained. Chapter Competition is conducted according to the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules and the National Governing Body Sports Rules. New Jersey offers competition in 24 sports.

National Games

National Games are offered by Special Olympics USA as an additional opportunity for athletes to advance from the Chapter level. They are traditionally held the year prior to a World Games and act as a qualifier for the World event.

World Games

World Games are offered every two years on an alternating Winter Games and Summer Games basis. The next World Summer Games will be in 2011, 2015 etc., and World Winter Games will be in 2013, 2017, etc. The United States Chapter is represented as TEAM USA.