Supporting Principles

A number of basic principles or assumptions are believed to be inherent in Special Olympics Manitoba's mission statement. These are:

- That programs must be provided for all functional abilities and ages of individuals with an intellectual disability;
- That active, physical participation while attending Special Olympics Manitoba programs is a requisite for attendance/membership;
- Special Olympics provides sport opportunities directly for athletes with an intellectual disability;
- Special Olympic programs are athlete centered. The athlete is all-important in Special Olympics;
- Special Olympics is a sport program. Sport involves the matching of strength, endurance and physical skills in formalized settings with structured rules and determined outcomes;
- Training and preparation are essential to meaningful participation in sport, and are an indispensable element of any Special Olympics program;
- Every Special Olympics athlete deserves a certified coach;
- Special Olympics supports and promotes a fair and safe environment for both athletes and coaches;
- Special Olympics links athletes with other sport organizations that provide additional sport training and competitive opportunities;
- The practice of divisioning athletes for competition, based on their abilities, is fundamental to the Special Olympics program. This practice ensures that all athletes experience equitable competition; and
- Special Olympics uses the medium of sport to assist persons with an intellectual disability to become all that they can be – physically, intellectually, socially, emotionally – and to become accepted, respected and productive members of society.