



**Bringing schools and  
Special Olympics Manitoba  
together as partners in the provision of  
sport programs for students with an  
intellectual disability.**

**Special Olympics Manitoba ...**

Is the provincial sport governing body responsible for the delivery of sport for people with an intellectual disability in the Province of Manitoba.

**SOM's mission is** “enriching the lives of Manitobans with an intellectual disability through sport.”

**SOM's athletes** have an intellectual disability. This is defined as “referring to sub-average intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with related limitations in two or more of the following applicable adaptive skill areas: communication, self-care, home living, social skills, community use, self-direction, health & safety, functional academics, leisure and work. Mental retardation manifests before age 18.” AAMR, 1992. Participants may also have other associated disabilities along with an intellectual disability.

**SOM's programs** exist in all seven sport regions of the Province. SOM offers the following sports: athletics, swimming, 5 & 10 pin bowling, powerlifting, rhythmic gymnastics, softball, soccer, bocce, golf, floor hockey, basketball, speed skating, figure skating, alpine skiing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and curling.

**SOM's competitions** are open to all registered athletes. Age restrictions apply as follows: Regional level - 8 years; Provincial level - 10 years; National levels - 12 years, International – 14 years. Additional competitive opportunities are also accessed through generic sport governing bodies.

## **Bridge the Gap...IT'S EASY!**

**Bridge the Gap** is an opportunity for your students to participate in quality athletic and sport experiences, as an extra-curricular activity at school. Bridge the Gap is about removing barriers and taking the Special Olympics program to prospective athletes in their school environments.

***Everyone's a Winner!*** The student athlete, the school, the teachers and Special Olympics Manitoba. Along with the already documented benefits to sport participation, additional benefits provided specifically by the Bridge the Gap program include:

- ◆ Young people with an intellectual disability participating in lifelong sport activities and competition
- ◆ Schools providing opportunities for all students to experience school spirit and pride

### ***SOM will provide...***

- ◆ in-service training for coaches
- ◆ sport clinics & workshops for athletes
- ◆ access to SOM competitions
- ◆ access to our print & video resources
- ◆ access to our SOM Athlete Speakers Bureau

### ***SOM will assist in...***

- ◆ starting your Bridge the Gap program/registering your athletes
- ◆ creating inter-mural/inter-school competitions for special needs students
- ◆ actively integrating students with an intellectual disability into your school sports program

***For your school's free copy of the Bridge the Gap school workbook, complete the attached order form. Additional copies can be ordered at \$10.00/workbook.***

**Please send my Bridge the Gap workbook to ...**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Teacher     Administrator     Other

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ School Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Copies:

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ copy (s) of the Bridge the Gap workbook.  
(\$10.00 per additional copy; cheques payable to Special Olympics Manitoba)

Mail or Fax this order for to:  
**Special Olympics Manitoba** Fax: (204) 925-5624

*Special Olympics Manitoba  
200 Main Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4M2  
Phone: (204) 925-5628  
Fax: (204) 925-5624*

*Email: [clowdon@specialolympics.mb.ca](mailto:clowdon@specialolympics.mb.ca)  
Website: [www.specialolympics.mb.ca](http://www.specialolympics.mb.ca)*

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