



**Special
Olympics**
Manitoba



SCHOOL PROGRAMS



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MISSION

Special Olympics Manitoba is dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals with an intellectual disability, through sport.



VISION

Our vision is that sport will open hearts and minds towards people with intellectual disabilities and create more inclusive communities.



Special Olympics School Programs

Our School Programs allow students with an intellectual disability to build confidence in sport through quality training and competition, laying the foundation for an active healthy lifestyle.

The program allows students to train and compete in various sports as a member of their school athletics program. There are dedicated events during school time that are designed to build confidence and competence across a wide selection of Special Olympics Manitoba official sports, including: basketball, snowshoeing, bocce, athletics, and soccer. Each sport is offered during a specific season over the course of the school year, with defined milestones built in, ultimately leading to the competitive event.



Students will develop the skills and experiences of young athletes in order to best prepare them for a lifetime of participation in sport and active living. At the same time, it gets the student body involved in the lives of their peers with an intellectual disability through leadership and peer volunteering opportunities.

Participants range from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and beyond. All abilities are welcome!

VALUES

Inclusion: we foster inclusive communities

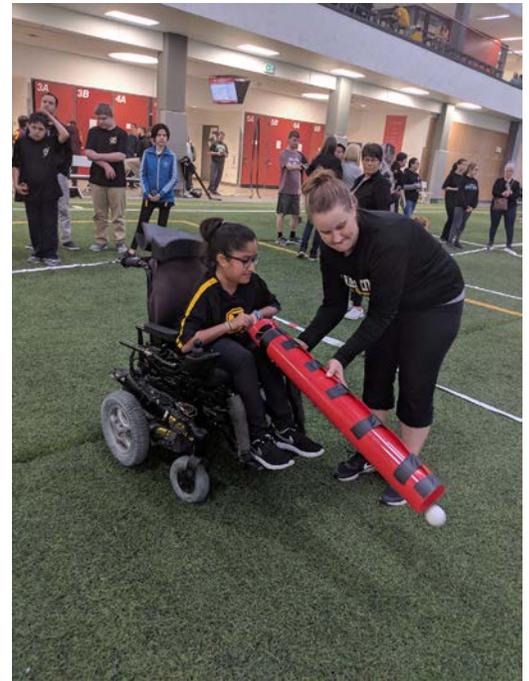


Hear from our participants!

"Special Olympics Manitoba School Programs are an amazing way to have students with intellectual disabilities become involved in, and learn, through sport. Through these programs, our students are able to build community, work on their teamwork and sport-specific skills, and develop a passion for sports that so many of us have been lucky enough to experience. Each event is filled with excitement, respect, and pure joy for both athletes and coaches - it is truly an outstanding experience!" - **Sara Oswald, Educator**

"Our experiences with Special Olympics Manitoba have been incredible. In just two short years, our staff, athletes, and Unified partners have made Special Olympics an integral part of our school community. The support of the School Programs staff, and the amazing events they coordinate, has given us all something to work towards and to get excited about. Special O at CGCC is here to stay! Thanks everyone." - **Steve Carson, Educator**

"The Special Olympics Manitoba School Programs have helped create a culture of inclusivity and understanding within our school community and beyond. These connections can last a lifetime and create a new generation of heroes and helpers." - **Melissa Diamond & Leah Spicer, Educators**



VALUES

**Diversity: we honour what is
unique in each individual**



Basketball

Basketball is a cornerstone of every school-aged curriculum, and is put on full display during our 3-on-3 Basketball games. We offer regular School Programs and Unified Basketball.

Teams consist of up to five players, including three starters and two substitutes.

Unified partners are able to shine as they assist their teammates on the court.

Kindergarten to Grade 8 students are offered a full day of skill development to perfect their skills before they move on to high school.

High school events are a full day round-robin based tournaments, where schools are able to meet and develop relationships with schools from outside of their own division.



VALUES

**Empowerment: we create opportunities
to pursue full potential**



Soccer



Soccer is an ever growing, popular sport in Manitoba. Any and all skill levels are welcome at our soccer events.

Kindergarten to Grade 8 students perfect their skills at our event offerings, so that they are able to excel as they reach high school.

Our high school events are round-robin based tournaments where schools play against each other, at various skill levels.



Each game is 5-on-5, and each team has five starters and four substitutes. Get your school involved today to show off your team's soccer skills!

VALUES

Respect: we operate in an environment of cooperation, collaboration, and dignity



Bocce

Bocce is an ever growing sport in Manitoba, and we are excited that it is one of the many sports that we are able to offer. Bocce is an all-inclusive sport, making it possible for any skill and ability level to participate.

Along with School Programs offerings, more and more schools have been putting on independent events, helping to grow the Inclusion Revolution.

A team may have up to five players, which includes four starters and one substitute. School Programs Bocce is a game of 4-on-4.



Unified Bocce consists of teams of two Unified Partners and two Special Olympics athletes.

It is a sport that allows for lots of teamwork, and lots of fun!

VALUES

Excellence: we elevate standards and performance



Track and Field

Track and Field is our largest School Programs event. Schools from many different regions come to participate in a variety of Track and Field events.

Some examples of events we offer are: 100m and 200m races, Standing Long Jump, and Shot Put.

A wide array of events allow for students of all abilities to participate.

All ages and abilities participate in the same events, with no change in the competition from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

This competition allows athletes to show off their skills and their speed!



“Special Olympics Manitoba is dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals with an intellectual disability through active participation in sport”



Unified Partners

STUDENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

Are you looking for volunteer hours for your Volunteer School Credit? Join the Special Olympics Manitoba Unified Program in your school! Be part of the inclusive school team spirit by either becoming a Unified Partner (a student without an intellectual disability), or by volunteering 3 to 4 hours a month to run practices and competitions for your fellow Special Olympics Unified athletes.

What do you need to get involved?

Your enthusiasm and your time!

How do I get involved?

Go to www.specialolympics.mb.ca to register as a program volunteer!



“Special Olympics is the largest organization in Canada to provide grassroots sport programs and competition opportunities, from the local level to the world level, for people with intellectual disabilities”



Hear about our Unified Programs

Special Olympics adopted Unified Sport in 1989 to expand sport opportunities for athletes seeking new challenges, while achieving social inclusion for individuals with intellectual disabilities in the community. The following positions below make up the Unified Sports programs within the schools.

UNIFIED ATHLETE: A student with an intellectual disability

UNIFIED PARTNER: A student without an intellectual disability

SCHOOL PROGRAMS EVENT VOLUNTEERS: Student volunteers who come out to School Programs sport competitions and help with different duties. They ensure the event runs smoothly and is a positive experience for the athletes. Volunteer duties depend on the sport and some positions include: referees, timers, scorekeepers, marshals, emcees, and hospitality helpers.

“FANS IN THE STANDS”: Anybody and everybody who wants to come and cheer! Number one responsibility is keeping the atmosphere fun and exciting, while cheering on their own school and others.



“Special Olympics Manitoba programs cater to all ages and a wide range of abilities”



Unified Sport across North America

Team sports bring people together. Special Olympics Unified Sports teams do that, too, and so much more. About 1.4 million people worldwide take part in Unified Sports, breaking down stereotypes about people with intellectual disabilities in a really fun way. ESPN has served as the Global Presenting Sponsor of Special Olympics Unified Sports since 2013, supporting the growth and expansion of this program that empowers individuals with, and without, intellectual disabilities to engage through the power of sport.

Promoting Social Inclusion Through Sport

Special Olympics is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences. Unified Sports joins people with, and without intellectual disabilities, on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. In Unified Sports, teams are made up of people of similar age and ability. That makes practices more fun, and games more challenging and exciting for all. Having sport in common is just one more way that preconceptions and false ideas are swept away.

**“Special Olympics Manitoba is more than an event
- Special Olympics Manitoba delivers world-class
sport programs to people with intellectual
disabilities daily in communities across Manitoba”**



Getting Involved and Running Your Own Event

Getting involved is easier than you think! We want these programs to be accessible to all school aged students. The more schools that participate, the larger our reach can be. Our goal is to bring sport to as many people with intellectual disabilities as possible.

If you are interested in participating or running your own event, there are a few different paths you can take. You are able to run any sport your school can facilitate and invite any schools that are interested in participating.

Please contact:

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School and Youth Programs Coordinator

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“Special Olympics Manitoba uses the transformative power and joy of sport to reveal the full potential of athletes with intellectual disabilities and create inclusive communities”



Check out our Regions!



“Special Olympics Manitoba believes that people with intellectual disabilities can, and will, succeed when given the opportunity - we are leveling the playing field”



Community Programs

If you can't get enough of Special Olympics Sport, check out our community programs! We offer programs in every region of Manitoba. They are run by kind and caring volunteers who are ready and willing to accept new athletes at any time!

All of the sports we offer in School Programs are offered in our regions.

Regional Program Guides can be found on our website at www.specialolympics.mb.ca. Simply select your region and then check out the program offerings in your area.

If you don't find something you are looking for, reach out to the provincial office to see if there is anything we can do about starting a new program to fit your needs. We have programs that suit everyone from ages 2-100 and beyond!

Our goal is to offer sport and physical activity to as many people with intellectual disabilities that we can.

There are many options that we can discuss, so don't hesitate to reach out today!

“Special Olympics Manitoba programs are delivered by highly-trained coaches and dedicated volunteers”

