



Special Olympics

Great Britain

Year-round sports training and competition for people with learning disabilities

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Company background and history

The Special Olympics movement was founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the sister of President John F Kennedy, who believed that the Olympic ideals of sport could give confidence and new hope to people with learning disabilities as well as to those who cared for them. Special Olympics now reaches over 1 million athletes in 153 countries worldwide.

Mrs Eunice Kennedy Shriver is still actively involved in Special Olympics but more recently her son, Timothy P Shriver Ph.D has taken on the role of Chairman of the Board of Special Olympics based out the organisation's head office in Washington.

Special Olympics Great Britain (SOGB) was established in 1978 as part of the global Special Olympics movement. An accreditation licence is granted annually by Special Olympics International to Special Olympics GB to run the Special Olympics programme in this country.

SOGB is a UK registered charity under Charity No 800329 and is a company limited by guarantee.

Since our formation, we have grown steadily to reach our present position where we have more than 135 groups in England, Scotland and Wales offering 24 sports in our training and competition programme.

Sports include: Athletics, Alpine Skiing, Aquatics, Basketball, Boccia, Bowls, Badminton, Cricket, Cycling, Equestrian, Football, Gymnastics (Artistic and Rhythmic), Golf, Judo, Kayaking,



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MATP (Motor Activity Training Programme), Netball, Powerlifting, Sailing, Table Tennis, Ten Pin Bowling, Tennis, Volleyball.

The programme in Great Britain presently offers opportunities to more than 7,000¹ children and adults with a learning disability we are now working to increase opportunities to a further 10,000 individuals by 2012.

There are an estimated 1.2 million children and adults with a learning disability in Great Britain

¹ This represents less than a quarter of one per cent of people with a learning disability in Great Britain



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Milestones

1978 -- Special Olympics United Kingdom² founded by Chris Maloney MBE as part of the international Special Olympics movement. Chris had been teaching swimming to people with learning disabilities since the early 60s. After reading a book entitled, Times to Remember by Rose Kennedy (mother of JFK and Eunice Shriver) in 1976, Chris sent a letter about his work to Rose Kennedy who in turn passed this to her daughter Eunice. With help from Mrs Shriver, the late Sir Hugh Fraser and Sir Eldon Griffiths (the then Minister for Sport) were asked to support the founding of Special Olympics in the UK....and the rest is history !

Coca-Cola GB sign up as a founding sponsor for the Charity in the UK.

1980-1-- Special Olympics issues the first Sports Skills Guides and Coaching Certification Guides

1982 -- SOGB hosts its first National Summer Games attended by 800 athletes in Knowsley, Liverpool. The Games are opened by HRH Princess Alexandra.

1983 -- SOGB send its first team to a World Games - 6th Special Olympics World Summer Games at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA. Attended by 4,000 athletes from across the globe.

1984 -- 1st European Games are held in Belgium. King & Queen of Belgium open the Games.

Chatsworth House fundraising event Grand Ball hosted by SOGB Chairman Sir Eldon Griffiths (and ex Minister for Sport) raises £250K enabling SOGB to appoint its first full time National Director and part time administrator. Based out of a small funded office in Liverpool.

1985 -- 2nd European Games are hosted in Dublin. GB sends 250 strong team one of the largest in Europe. 2,500 athletes attend from across Europe.

1986 -- 2nd GB National Summer Games Brighton. 900 athletes in attendance.

² Special Olympics UK changed its name to Special Olympics Great Britain in 2000 to reflect that it does not cover Northern Ireland which is part of Special Olympics Ireland.



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1987 -- 7th Special Olympics World Games in South Bend Indiana. 4,500 from 70 countries. GB sends a team of 100.

1988 -- On February 15th 1988, the **International Olympic Committee** and Special Olympics Inc signed a protocol agreement in which the IOC grants its official recognition to Special Olympics as the third member of the Olympic movement. It agrees that Special Olympics may use the wording 'Olympics' in its title – the only organization in the world allowed to do so. It is not allowed to use any Olympic flag, the five rings, emblem or motto.

1989 -- 3rd GB National Summer Games in Leicester. 1,100 athletes in attendance.

1990 -- SOGB plays host to the 3rd European Games – held in Strathclyde, 31 countries, 2200 athletes attend the event. Adopt an Athlete Scheme is launched and the International Torch Run runs 6500k from Athens to Glasgow. Opened by HRH Duke of Edinburgh.

1st SOGB National Conference.

Winter Sports Programme launched for GB.

Special Olympics hybrid tea rose, named "Winners All" is commissioned and launched by British Olympic athlete Tessa Sanderson at the Chelsea Flower Show in May 1990.

Olympus Sports agree to a full time secondment of a staff member, Derek Payne, on a three year term to help with PR and Marketing initiatives. Over the three years, 90-93 Olympus help raise over £400,000.

1991 -- Special Olympics International appoint a full time Director General in Europe (Former Great Britain Olympic Athlete, Paul Anderson) to help support the development of the Special Olympics movement across Europe.

Between 1991-1994 Special Olympics movement in Europe doubles in number of programmes running Special Olympics programmes.

8th Special Olympics World Summer Games held in St Paul, Minneapolis. 6,000 athletes from more than 60 countries and 51 states participate making the event the largest sports event anywhere in the world in 1991. GB team of 118 competed at the



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event. GB team return with 54 gold, 42 silver and 24 bronze medals.

1st GB National Winter Games held at Aviemore, Scotland. Attended by Sporting Hero, Frank Bruno.

1992 -- GB team attend Spain National Games (Barcelona) which precede the Olympic and Paralympic games

National qualifying competitions in over 6 sports take place throughout the year in the lead up to National Summer Games in Sheffield.

1993 -- 4th GB National Summer Games Sheffield. 1,600 athletes in attendance.

SOGB attend the first World Winter Games to be outside the USA and is the first time GB send a team to this event. 5th World Winter Games in Schladming, Austria.

1994 -- SOGB appoint new National Director, Paul Anderson (Ex-Director General of Europe) to oversee a new phase of development for the organisation bringing with him from Europe his PA, Karen Bunton.

The GB National Office relocates to offices in Central London provided by Mencap.

SOGB is delighted when Leagas Delaney agree to become official pro bono Advertising Agency.

1995 -- 9th Special Olympics World Summer Games, Connecticut. GB sends a team of 107 athletes returning with 173 medals! Including 2 world Champions, Susie Pipes and Julian Jeffery.

Otis, Coca-Cola and the IPE support SOGB in entering a float to the Lord Mayors Show

Special Olympics global sponsors, Otis Lifts, sign up as a SOGB sponsor and provide a fully funded office to house SOGB National Office.

SOGB first advertisement featuring athlete, Susie Pipes is released and shown in Canon cinemas across the country prior to the new Batman movie.



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1996 -- A new Board of Directors is appointed at SOGB. New Chairman, Bob McCulloch (then Managing Director of adidas UK) leads a full review of the programme and its needs.

The first National Development Officer is appointed for SOGB – Andy Heffer.

Sailing is introduced to the SOGB sports programme

2nd National Winter Games are hosted in Abernethy, Scotland. 40 athletes compete in Alpine Skiing.

1st National Gymnastics Coaching Conference held at Lilleshall NSC.

1st National Conference hosted in Portsmouth and attended by over 100 delegates.

1997 -- 6th World Winter Games hosted in Toronto, Canada. Team GB of 12 athletes return 7 Gold, 9 Silver and 7 Bronze medals in Alpine Skiing.

5th GB National Summer Games are held in Portsmouth. Opened by the then Sports Minister, Tony Banks. Sailing and Golf are promoted as demonstration sports. Southern Train is named Special Olympics and officially unveiled by Daley Thompson.

2000 athletes from across GB and specially invited teams from Europe attend the week long event.

Sainsbury's support the Torch Run and £800,000 is raised for Special Olympics GB Development Fund. Grant System is launched where groups and regions can apply for funds to help develop their local programme.

Golf is introduced to the SOGB sports programme.

1998 -- SOGB 20th Anniversary celebrations hosted at House of Commons and attended by athletes and special guests including Norman Wisdom and Dave Prowse.

20th anniversary National Conference attended by 180 delegates held at Forest of Arden Hotel, Birmingham.

A second Regional Development Officer, Wendy Duke is appointed to help support the National Sports Development.



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- 1999 --** 10th World Summer Games North Carolina, USA. GB team of 205 the largest delegation outside the USA attend. A special send off reception is hosted by the American Ambassador at the US Embassy London and attended by Margaret Thatcher.
- 2000 –** The first European Games since 1990 are staged in Groenigen . Netherlands.
Paul Anderson retires as CEO and National Director of SOGB.
- 2001 –** 7th World Winter Games. Anchorage, Alaska.
6th GB National Summer Games held in Cardiff, Wales.
- 2002 –** New Chairman of the Board, Lady Sandra Sorrell appointed.
- 2003 –** Special drinks reception is hosted by Gordon Brown at 11 Downing Street followed by a private fundraising dinner at the Foreign Office which raises £100K.
11th World Summer Games – Dublin, Ireland. First time the event is held outside of the USA. 7000 from 169 countries participate. Opened by Nelson Mandela and attended by the Kennedy Family, Muhammed Ali, U2, The Corrs, Colin Farrell and the world's media.
BBC Grandstand and Sky cover Team GB attendance.
- 2004 –** Chris Hooper is announced as SOGB's new National Director.
- 2005 –** 8th World Winter Games. Nagano. Japan
7th GB National Summer Games hosted in the City of Glasgow.



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Our Locations

There are 19 regions of Special Olympics GB corresponding to the old Sports Council boundaries as set out below:

1. England (10)

Northern, North West, Yorkshire & Humberside, East Midlands, West Midlands, South West, South East, Southern, Eastern and Greater London

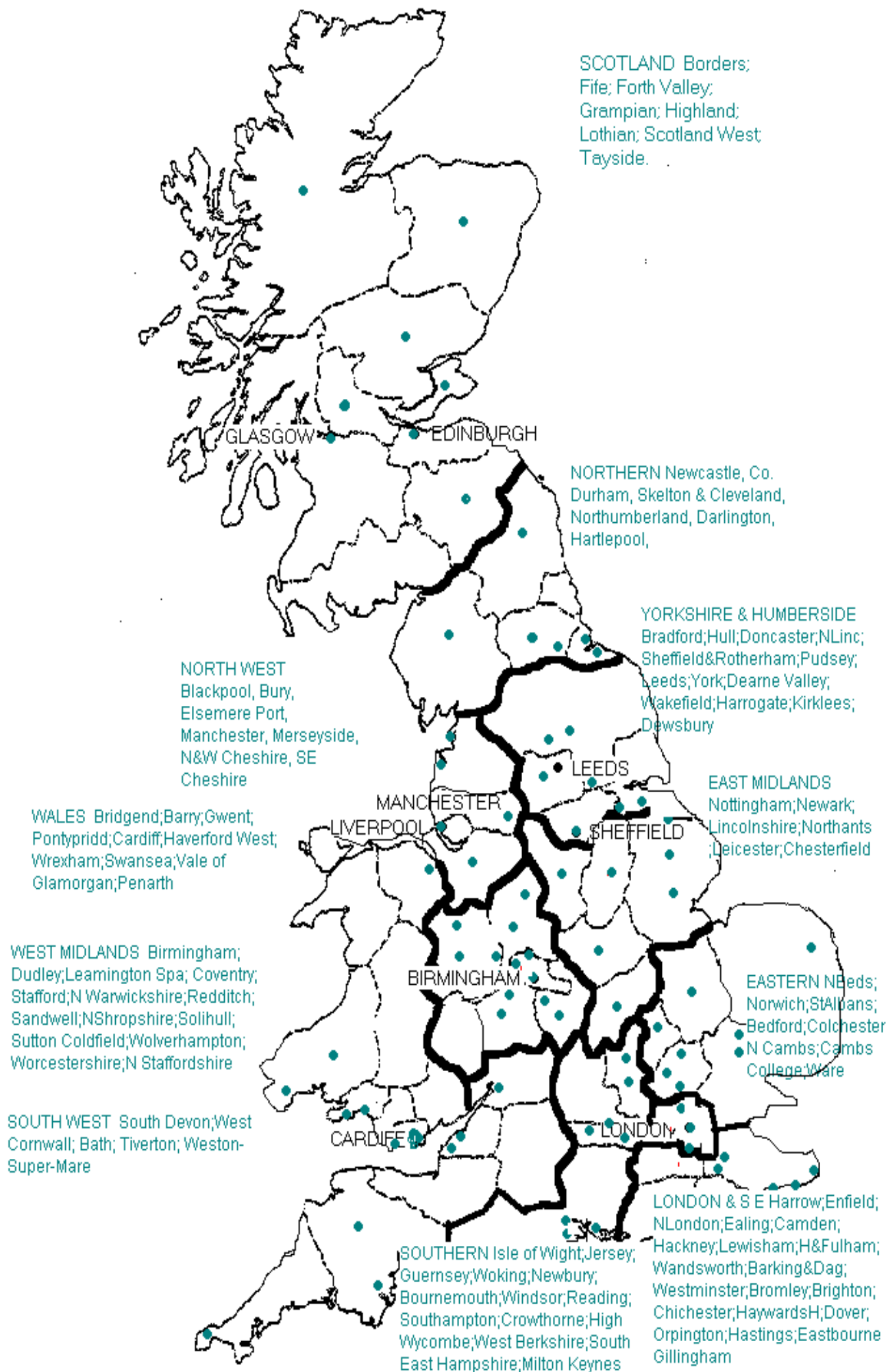
2. Scotland (8)

Scotland West, Lothian, Fife, Forth Valley, Tayside, Borders, Grampian and Highland.

3. Wales (1 region however there are 3 recognized local areas)

North, Mid and South Wales

There are currently 135 accredited groups across the 19 regions.





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EDITOR NOTES:

Special Olympics Great Britain specialises in providing year-round sports training and competition in 24 Olympic-type sports, both summer and winter, for learning disabled children and adults from age 8 to 80.

Founded as part of the global Special Olympics movement in 1978, Special Olympics GB currently serves over 8,000 athletes who participate in year-round sports training and competition programmes at local, regional, national and international levels. National Summer Games every 4 years.

Special Olympics Great Britain is a registered charity and is generously supported annually by individual and corporate donations and currently receives no government funding. Partners include National Grid, The Coca-Cola Youth Foundation, ABB, SAS and Lions International.

One of the guiding principles of Special Olympics is that anyone, with encouragement, support and access to resources, can be provided with a positive sporting experience, raising their self-esteem and the expectations of the community around them. Special Olympics seeks to focus on a person's abilities and qualities giving them opportunities to develop further.

Special Olympics and Paralympics are two separate organisations. Special Olympics provide year-round sports and training opportunities for all learning disability levels. Paralympics provides elite-only level sports competition for multi-disabled groups including physical, blind and deaf.

Special Olympics was founded in 1968 by Eunice Shriver Kennedy, sister of US President John F. Kennedy. The Special Olympics movement has evolved worldwide to include **160 countries** and **2,256,733 athletes**. It is part of the world's largest year-round programme of sports training and competitions for individuals with learning disabilities.

In 1988, Special Olympics was recognised by the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**. It is the only sports organisation authorised by the IOC to use the word 'Olympics' in its title.

www.sogb.org.uk



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FAST FACTS:

There are currently **1.2 million** people with learning disabilities in the UK – a further **200 babies are born each week** with learning disabilities.

As of January 1, 2006, Special Olympics has **2,256,733 athletes strong** worldwide in 160 countries including: 550,000 in China; 210,854 in India; 548,000 in North America; 430,000 in Europe/Eurasia; more than 600 athletes in Afghanistan; and 4,400 in Rwanda.

Our **World Games** are global and growing - - the first Games held outside of the United States were hosted by Ireland in 2003, and then Japan in 2005, followed by upcoming summer games in Shanghai, China 2007 and winter games in Boise Idaho, USA in 2009.

The Official Global Special Olympics Summer Sports are: Aquatics, Athletics, Basketball, Badminton, Cycling, Equestrian, Football, Gymnastics (Artistic And Rhythmic), Golf, Kayaking, Judo, Table-Tennis, Ten-Pin Bowling, Sailing, Team Handball, Powerlifting, Roller Skating, Softball, Tennis, Volleyball. (those underlined are all provided in the GB sports programme)

The Official Global Special Olympics Winter Sports are: Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Figure Skating, Snowshoeing, Speed Skating, Floor Hockey.

The Official Special Olympics Nationally Popular Sports are: Boccia, Cricket, Bowls and Netball.

Special Olympics also has the **Motor Activities Training Programme (MATP)** which is a tailored programme of activities to develop gross motor skills for people with profound or multiple learning disabilities.

The **World Health Organization** estimates that 3 percent of the world's population has learning disabilities, which means there are up to 190 million people world-wide -- the largest disability population on earth.

Different terminology is used throughout the world for learning disability, including developmental disability, intellectual disability and mental handicap. In the UK, the current term is *learning disability*; generally this denotes an **IQ of 75 or less**.

All Special Olympics competition is 'banded'. This allows all athletes the opportunity for achievement based on their own level of ability. This philosophy is carried right through to the selection of teams for international events where all athletes and not just the elite have the chance to be chosen to represent the GB.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Special Olympics World Games - October 2007: Shanghai, China www.teamgb2007.org.uk
- Special Olympics Winter World Games – 2009 Boise Idaho, USA www.specialolympics.org
- Special Olympics European Games – 2010 Warsaw, Poland www.specialolympics-eu.org
- Special Olympics World Summer Games – 2011 Athens Greece www.specialolympics.org

www.sogb.org.uk



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What is Special Olympics?

Special Olympics is an global organisation that provides year-round sports training and athletic competition to more than 2.25 million children and adults with learning disabilities in more than 160 countries. Founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of the late President John F Kennedy, in 1968 Special Olympics provides people with learning disabilities opportunities to realise their potential, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy and friendship.

How many people does Special Olympics serve globally/in Great Britain?

Special Olympics serves more than 2.25 million people with an learning disabilities in more than 160 countries.

In Great Britain the programme currently serves over 7000 annually. There are an estimated 1.2 million people with learning disabilities in Great Britain.

How is Special Olympics Great Britain funded?

Special Olympics Great Britain is a registered charity and is generously supported annually by individual and corporate donations and currently receives no government funding. Our Premier Partners include The Coca-Cola Youth Foundation, ABB, SAS, Dominos Pizza

What is the Special Olympics Athlete Oath?

"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

What is Special Olympics' mission?

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with learning 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.



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What impact does Special Olympics have on athletes?

Children and adults with learning disabilities who participate in Special Olympics develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence and a more positive self-image. They grow mentally, socially and spiritually and, through their activities, exhibit boundless courage and enthusiasm, enjoy the rewards of friendship and ultimately discover not only new abilities and talents but "their voices" as well.

Who leads Special Olympics?

Bruce Pasternack was appointed CEO of Special Olympics International in March 2005. The Chairman of the Board is Timothy Shriver and he leads the global organisation. In Great Britain the Chairman is Lawrie McMenemy MBE.

Who is eligible to participate in Special Olympics?

To be eligible to participate in Special Olympics, you must be at least 8 years old and identified by an agency or professional as having one of the following conditions: learning disabilities, cognitive delays as measured by formal assessment, or significant learning or vocational problems due to cognitive delay that require or have required specially designed instruction.

However, persons whose functional limitations are based solely on a physical, behavioural, 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 as partners in Unified Sports® if they otherwise meet the separate eligibility requirements for participation in Unified Sports set forth in the Sports Rules.

Can individuals with profound disabilities participate in Special Olympics?

Yes, through Special Olympics' Motor Activities Training Program (MATP), developed by physical educators, physical therapists and recreation therapists. MATP emphasizes training and participation rather than competition.



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Where do I find information about Special Olympics Sports Rules and Coaching Guides? Please visit our website

www.specialolympicsgb.org/ourcoaches

When are Special Olympics World Games held?

The Special Olympics World Summer Games are held every four years; the 2003 World Summer Games were held in Dublin, Ireland, on 20-29 June; the 2007 World Summer Games will be held in Shanghai, China October 2-11th. The Special Olympics World Winter Games are also held every four years; the 2005 World Winter Games took place in Nagano, Japan, on 26 February-5 March.

Is Special Olympics part of the Olympic movement?

In 1988, Special Olympics was recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as the third member of the Olympic family. It is the only sports organisation authorised by the IOC to use the word 'Olympics' in its title.

Are there differences between Special Olympics and Paralympics?

Yes, Special Olympics and the Paralympics are two separate and distinct organisations with specific eligibility requirements. **(see the chart below)**



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SPECIAL OLYMPICS	OLYMPICS	PARALYMPICS
<p>Olympic type sports for persons who are classified as being learning disabled</p> <p>Some athletes may also have a physical disability, but first classification will be learning disabled</p>	<p>Olympic sports for elite sportspeople</p>	<p>Elite sports for persons with a disability – principally a physical or sensory disability</p> <p>Impairment Classifications = Athletes with Cerebral Palsy (CP-ISRA), Athletes with Spinal Cord Lesion, Spina Bifida and Polio (ISMWSF), Athletes with Blindness (IBSA) and Athletes with Les Autres or Amputations (ISOD)</p>
<p>Athletes of all ages are catered for: Minimum age for entering competition = 8 yrs</p> <p>NO upper limit – in 1987 there was a 70+ yr old Swedish Level I artistic gymnast</p>	<p>Age of athletes vary according to sport, but few very young or old athletes</p>	<p>Age of athletes vary according to sport but few young or older athletes</p>
<p>All ability groups are included in the sports competition</p>	<p>Elite athletes only – entry standards</p>	<p>Elite athletes only – entry standards</p>
<p>Year-Round Training and Competition</p>	<p>Year-Round Training and Competition</p>	<p>Centralized training prior to competition</p>
<p>Every athlete receives recognition for all events</p>	<p>Only first three are recognised</p>	<p>Only first three are recognised</p>
<p>Some events have been adapted to meet ability levels of athletes</p>	<p>Regular standardised competition</p>	<p>Some events have been adapted to meet ability levels of athletes</p>
<p>Summer and Winter World Games every 4 years – First International Summer Games in 1968, Chicago, USA; First International Winter Games in 1977, Colorado, USA</p>	<p>Summer and Winter Olympic Games every 4 years – First Modern Olympics held in 1896, in Athens, Greece; Winter Olympic Games in Chamonix, France in 1924</p>	<p>Summer Paralympic Games one month after Olympic Games – begun in 1988 after Seoul Olympic Games</p>
<p>Independent organisation and structure</p>	<p>Government supported</p>	<p>Government supported</p>
<p>Competition Levels: School- Local, Area/District State/Province, National Regional, International</p>	<p>International Only</p>	<p>State, National, Regional and International</p>



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Eligibility for Participation in Special Olympics

Eligibility Definition

The Special Olympics General and Sports Rules set down the criteria for athletes to be eligible for Special Olympics from which the following is extracted:

1. General Statement of Eligibility.

Special Olympics training and competition is open to every person with a learning disability who is at least eight years of age and who is registered to participate in Special Olympics as required by the General Rules.

2. Age Requirements.

There is no maximum age limitation for participation in Special Olympics. The minimum age requirement for participation in Special Olympics competition is eight years of age. Children who are at least six years old may participate in age appropriate Special Olympics Training programmes.

3. Identifying Persons with a Learning Disability.

A person is considered to have a learning disability for purposes of determining his or her eligibility to participate in Special Olympics if that person satisfies any one of the following requirements:

- a. The person has been identified by an agency or professional as having a learning disability as determined by their localities;

Or:

- b. The person has a cognitive delay, as determined by standardised measures such as intelligent quotient or "IQ" testing or other measures that are generally accepted within the professional community in that Accredited Programme's nation as being a reliable measurement of the existence of cognitive delay;

Or:

- c. 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, behavioural, or emotional disability, or a specific learning or sensory disability, but may be able to volunteer for Special Olympics as partners in Unified Sports® if they otherwise meet the separate eligibility requirements for participation in Unified Sports® as set forth in the SportsRules.

Explanatory Notes for Parents, Guardians, Carers etc.

SOGB receives many enquiries from people who are uncertain whether their son or daughter is eligible to participate in Special Olympics. It is important to draw a distinction between people who have a general learning disability (who are eligible for Special Olympics) and those with a specific learning difficulty (who will



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usually be ineligible). Conditions such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, attention deficit disorder or challenging behaviour are all specific learning difficulties and people with these conditions are not eligible for Special Olympics unless they also have a general learning disability. As a guide approximately 19% of the school-age population is classified as having a learning difficulty but only 2% will meet the eligibility criteria for Special Olympics. Similarly people with a physical or sensory impairment do not qualify for Special Olympics unless they also have a learning disability.

If you are still uncertain you should be able to get advice from your local authority education or social services department. People with a learning difficulty who are currently or have recently been in the education system should have been assessed and given a Statement of Special Educational Need. Parents/guardians should have been given a copy of this or can obtain one if they were not. This should contain the information that you need to determine whether someone is eligible for Special Olympics. If you are still unclear an educational psychologist from your local education department or your child's school's Special Education Needs Co-ordinator should be able to advise you. Special Olympics GB will accept written confirmation from a suitably qualified professional (preferably an educational psychologist) that someone meets the Special Olympics criteria as sufficient proof of eligibility. If it is not possible to provide such written confirmation or other proof of eligibility, Special Olympics reserves the right to withhold or withdraw membership to the person concerned.

There has been much debate about the validity of IQ tests as an indicator of learning disability. However they are still widely carried out as part of the 'Statementing' process described above. Within the U.K. it is usual to classify someone with an IQ of 75 or below as having a learning disability and this is the figure accepted by SOGB. Please remember that a Special Olympics coach or volunteer may or may not work with people with a learning disability in a professional capacity but is unlikely to be qualified to make a definitive judgement on whether someone is eligible for Special Olympics or not.

A word of caution about books, journals and the internet. These can be valuable sources of information about all forms of disability. However, definitions and terminology vary from country to country and it is not always easy to see where a book or article has originated from. If you find something that describes a particular condition as being a 'learning disability' it does not necessarily mean that it would be classified as such in the U.K.

Please note that other organisations providing sporting opportunities for people with a learning disability may have different eligibility criteria and may require additional evidence.

Notes to Special Olympics Coaches/Volunteers

It is the responsibility of all local Special Olympics groups to try to ensure that all Special Olympics athletes are eligible according to the above criteria. You will rarely have any cause to query an athlete's eligibility. However, if you are uncertain you have a responsibility to enquire into this with the athlete's parent, guardian or carer. It is far better to do this early in an athlete's involvement with Special Olympics rather than waiting until you wish to enter them into an event.



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Please remember that this is a sensitive issue and you should proceed with caution and tact. If you find that a potential athlete is ineligible, they may still be able to participate in some sports as a Unified Partner.

Disclaimer

Special Olympics reserves the right to:

- **ask for proof of eligibility at any time**
- **specify the nature of the proof required**
- **refuse or withdraw the membership of any athlete who, in our opinion, does not meet the Special Olympics eligibility criteria**

Any costs associated with obtaining the required proof of eligibility are the responsibility of the athlete concerned.



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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IS:

- The largest sports charity for people with a learning disability, which provides year round sports training in 24 different Olympics type sports for athletes of all ages and all sporting abilities.
- The only organisation authorised by the International Olympic Committee to use the work 'Olympics' world-wide
- Different from Paralympics in that Special Olympics provides sports opportunities for people of all abilities and not just elite athletes.

MISSION STATEMENT:

- Promote the inclusion of people with a learning disability in mainstream sport.
- Promote opportunities for all athletes with a learning disability regardless of level of personal skill, creed, religion, economic circumstances.
- Provide as many Special Olympics athletes with the opportunity to participate, train and compete in as wide a variety of sports and events as possible
- Provide quality coaching for all athletes.
- Help athletes develop physical skills, personal confidence and self-esteem by providing sports goals to achieve.

GOAL OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS:

- The ultimate goal of Special Olympics is to help people with a learning disability participate as productive and respected members of society at large, by offering them a fair opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and talents through sports training and competition, and by increasing the public's awareness of their capabilities and needs.

OPERATING POLICIES:

- Special Olympics training and competition is open to every person with a learning disability over the age of 8 years, there is no upper age limit. From 6 years athletes may train but may not compete until their 8th birthday.
- Special Olympics is an athlete-centred movement and believes that the athlete is all important. Promoting athletes as the central focus of each training session, or event must be intrinsic to every Special Olympics group.
- Special Olympics must be held in a manner that protects the participating athletes, provides fair and equitable conditions of competition, and promotes uniformity in testing athletes skills, so that no competitor obtains an unfair advantage over the other.



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EQUAL OPPS STATEMENT /Page 2

- No Special Olympics group/programme may exclude or isolate from participation any athlete who is known to be a carrier of a blood borne contagious infection or virus, or otherwise discriminate against such athletes solely because of a medical condition.
- Every Special Olympics group must offer a variety of sports event and activities that are appropriate to the age and ability of each athlete and foster full participation by each eligible athlete regardless of level of ability, degree of mental or physical disability, or economic circumstances.



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General Information

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors (Trustees under the Charities Act, Directors under the Companies Act) are ultimately responsible in running and conducting the affairs and business of the charity in accordance with the charity's governing document and acting in the charity's best interest only.

As the Board of Directors of a Special Olympics Accredited Programme it is also accountable to Special Olympics Inc., for ensuring that its Accredited Programme complies with all the requirements of the General Rules and other uniform standards.

The Board may delegate specific authority or responsibility for particular functions to officers, committees or sub-committees as per the charity's governing documents.

The key focus of the SOGB Board is on the financial management and funding to enable SOGB to successfully pursue and develop its charitable objectives.

The current Chairman of the Board is Lawrie McMenemy MBE.



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OUR AMBASSADORS

- Lawrie McMenemy MBE
- David James – Footballer – Portsmouth FC
- Hope Powell – Footballer – England Women’s Head Coach
- Sean Baker – Extreme Kayaker
- John Amaechi – NBA Basketball Legend



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OUR SUPPORTERS

The Coca-Cola Youth Foundation. Premier Partner. Proudly supporting Special Olympics Great Britain since 1978. Coca-Cola also donates product to refresh athletes, coaches and volunteers at all Special Olympics events.

http://citizenship.coca-cola.co.uk/local_community_programmes/special_olympics.asp

ABB. Premier Partner. Supporting the ongoing work and development of Special Olympics Great Britain since 2001.

www.abb.com ABB is a global engineering company.

SAS. Premier Partner. A Partner of Special Olympics Great Britain since 2003, SAS provides support to the GB Torch Run and to the ongoing development of the national organization.

www.sas.com SAS is the leader in business intelligence software and services

Dominos Pizza. Premier Partner. Our newest Partner joining in 2006. Dominos are also Official Partner to Team GB 2007 (Shanghai) and will host a series of Come and Try events to help support and grow the awareness of the organization.

www.dominos.uk.com

Lions Clubs International (MD 105 United Kingdom) Partner. Supporter since 1990. The Lions Clubs raise funds to help offset athlete costs in attending National and International competitions.

JWT. Supporter. Pro Bono communications agency. www.jwt.com

Lexis PR. Supporter. Pro Bono Sports PR agency. www.lexispr.com