

Special Olympics Montana



Special Olympics
Montana



Special Olympics History



- ✓ **Founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in 1968**
- ✓ **1968: First International Games held at Soldier Field in Chicago**
 - ✓ 1,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities from 26 U.S. states and Canada
 - ✓ Athletes competed in athletics and aquatics.
- ✓ **1971: US Olympic Committee gave Special Olympics official approval to use the name “Olympics”**
- ✓ **One of only three global organizations sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee**
 - ✓ Junior Olympics, Paralympics, and Special Olympics



SOMT History



- Initial Launch of Special Olympics Montana – 1970
- First Summer Games (SSG) – 1970 in Billings at Dayliss Stadium with approximately 400 athletes competing in Track & Field and Swimming
- First State Basketball Tournament (SBB) – 1975 in Great Falls at CMR Fieldhouse with approximately 250 athletes competing
- First State Winter Games added in 1977, held annually in Whitefish, MT
- SOMT Currently:
 - Over 2300 Athletes
 - Over 4000 Volunteers

Sports & Competitions Offered



SOMT offers 18 sports

- Alpine Skiing
- Aquatics
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Bocce
- Bowling
- Cross Country Skiing
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Floor Hockey
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Kayaking
- Powerlifting
- Snowboarding
- Snowshoeing
- Soccer
- Triathlon



Competition Opportunities

- Area Games
- State Games
 - State Summer Games (SSG)
 - State Winter Games (SWG)
 - State Basketball Tournament (SBB)
 - State Bowling Championships
- USA Games
- World Games
 - World Summer Games (WSG)
 - World Winter Games (WWG)

Volunteer Driven... At All Levels



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Volunteers



Class A: Volunteers who have regular, close physical contact with athletes, are in a position of authority or supervision with athletes, in a position of trust of athletes, or who handle substantial amounts of cash or other assets of the Program

Examples include: Area Management Team (AMT) Members, Coaches, Unified Partners, Chaperones, Games Management Team (GMT) members, etc.

“Day Of”: Volunteers who agree to help out on a short term basis, usually during an event (competition, fundraiser, etc.)

How to Become a Registered Class A Volunteer



Class A: All Class A Volunteers must submit a volunteer application, pass a criminal background check, and complete the online Protective Behaviors Training.

Link to Volunteer Application:

<http://somt.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/updated-volunteer-form-1-19-16-with-PB.pdf>

Link to Online Protective Behaviors Training:

http://resources.specialolympics.org/protective_behaviors_training.aspx

Volunteer Roles: Examples



**Special Olympics is one of the LARGEST
Volunteer Driven Organizations In The WORLD**

Athletes and Unified Patners



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Special Olympics Athlete Oath



“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt!”



Athlete Eligibility



- Person with intellectual disability identified by an agency or professional physician
- Person with closely-related developmental disability, in addition to an intellectual disability or cognitive delay
- Age 8 and older to compete
- Young Athletes Program – for ages 2 to 7 years

How to Become an Athlete



Paperwork:

- Athlete Participation/Medical Form
- Athlete Consent Form
- Athlete Code of Conduct
- Unified Partner Forms

Resources: <http://somt.org/resources/>

Athlete Code of Conduct



- Athletes and Unified Partners are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship both in training and competition. To that end, SOMT requires all Athletes and Unified Partners to read the Athlete's Code of Conduct and sign at the bottom signifying his or her understanding.
- At this time, SOMT does not require an Athlete or Unified Partner to resubmit the form after the initial completion. However, Local Programs have the option of requiring resubmission by the athlete or Unified Partner.

Unified Partners



- Unified partners are individuals without intellectual disabilities who compete alongside athletes on teams for training and/or competition.
- Special Olympics offers 13 unified sports
 - Bowling
 - Basketball
 - Alpine Skiing
 - Showshoe
 - Cross Country Skiing
 - Golf
 - Soccer
 - Triathlon
 - Athletics
 - Swimming
 - Bocce
 - Kayak
 - Equestrian

“Athlete Experience”



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Other Athlete Experiences



- Healthy Athletes
- Athlete Leadership Program (ALPs)
- Young Athletes Program (YAP)
- Unified Strategies

Putting it all together...



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TRAINING is the key

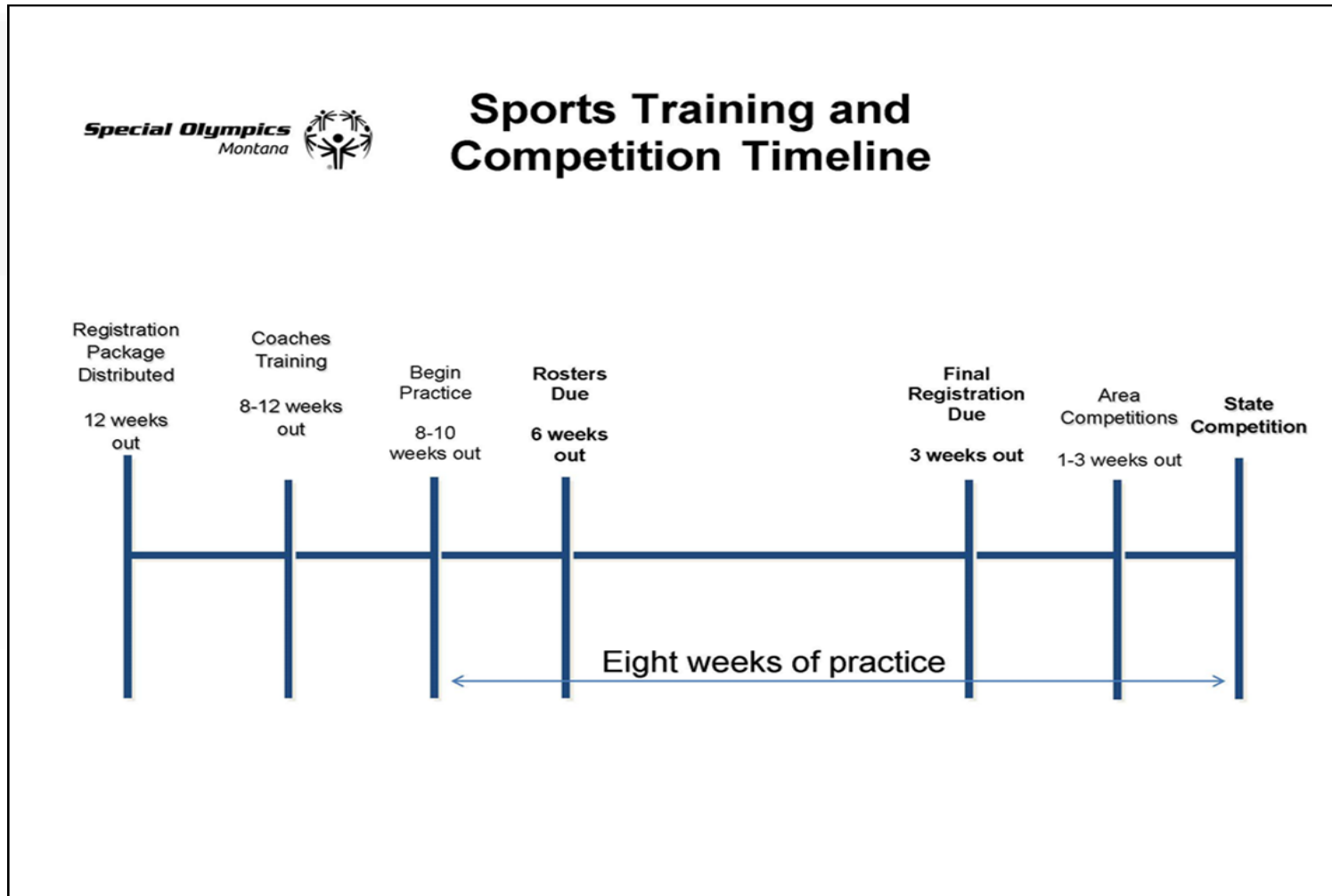
COMPETITION is the means

Skill, confidence, courage & joy are the
OUTCOMES

Better preparation for life is the ***GOAL***

Lifelong skills & increased
independence are the ***RESULTS***

Special Olympics – Training & Competition Timeline



QUIZ



Head back to the Coaches Corner page, click on the link for the quiz, and take the quiz. We're happy to have you as a coach!

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