



Special Olympics Ontario

Intermediate Program Guide

What are Special Olympics School Programs?

Special Olympics Ontario School Programs provides in school sport programming for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Programs include elementary, intermediate, secondary and University/College programs. These programs span from ActiveStart/FUNDamentals initiatives to competition opportunities.

Through sport and physical activity, Special Olympics promotes opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and develop skills and friendships with peers, teachers, volunteers, and the community.

Intermediate Programs

Beginning this fall, Special Olympics Ontario is introducing intermediate competitions. Building off of ActiveStart and FUNDamentals programs, Intermediate Competitions provide a transitional step between elementary and secondary school programs. This academic year, Intermediate Unified Basketball and Bocce competitions will be held alongside several Secondary School Qualifiers across the province. Schools will create Unified teams for competitions at their local Secondary School Qualifier, competing against other elementary schools in the area.

Intermediate programs target students in grades 6 – 8, who are ready to take the next step into organized sport. Unified Partners will be peers without an intellectual disability who compete side by side with their classmates.



What is Unified?

Unified Sport places athletes with and without intellectual disabilities on a sports field together to compete as teammates. Teams are made up of athletes of similar age and ability level. All teams must subscribe to the principle of meaningful involvement, where all individuals participate in a role that is meaningful. Whether it be in an offensive or defensive capacity, each athlete should feel as though they are participating in a way that is significant.

At its core, Unified Sports are about unifying all students, with and without intellectual disabilities, using sport as a catalyst for social inclusion, attitudinal and behavioural change.

Our opponent is intolerance. Only shoulder to shoulder, together as teammates can we defeat it.



How To Get Started

Special Olympics Ontario has developed several resources to aid in starting your school's first Unified Sports teams nearest intermediate competition to your school:

<http://www1.specialolympicsontario.com/events/school-programs>

Step One: Locate Regional Competition

Visit the SOO School Programs Event Calendar to locate the nearest intermediate competition to your school

Step Two: Recruit Athletes

Working together with your school's Physical Education lead, select both Unified Partners and Traditional Special Olympics Athletes who have expressed an interest in competing in either basketball or bocce. These athletes should be in grade 6 to 8 or demonstrate proficiency in fundamental movement skills.

Step Three: Download Resources and make a Practice Plan

Special Olympics has developed a Youth Multi-Sport Guide with practice plans for all 5 school sports, including bocce and basketball. This resource can be requested at the following link:

<http://www1.specialolympicsontario.com/events/educator-resource-request>

Technical packages for both sports can be accessed here:

<http://www1.specialolympicsontario.com/schools/technical-packages/>

After receiving these resources, set up a training schedule for the lead up to the competition to prepare your athletes for the tournament. These sessions can be run before school, after school or during gym periods. Running these lead up sessions will ensure athletes have weekly opportunities for organized physical activity.

Step Four: Compete!

Be sure to register your team online at least a week prior to the competition date to secure your entry. We look forward to seeing you at this exciting new program.

More Information

For more information on intermediate programs in your area, please e-mail Chris Mehak at chrism@specialolympicsontario.com.



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