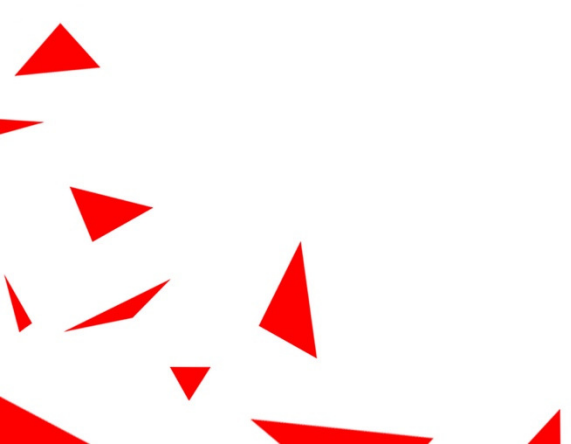




Special
Olympics
Ontario

MCLAUGHLIN
ATHLETICS

2019-2020 Introductory Package



Special Olympics
Ontario



School Programs

Thank you for your interest in Special Olympics Ontario's School programs.

Special Olympics Ontario is dedicated to enriching the lives of Ontarians with an intellectual disability through sport. Our vision is that sport will **open hearts and minds** towards people with intellectual disabilities and **create inclusive communities** all across Ontario.

The School and Youth team coordinates and oversees events in dozens of locations around the province during the school year. Elementary students are invited to attend one of our Sport Festivals, while secondary students face off against their peers in structured competitions, known as School Championship Qualifiers.

Sport Festivals are one-day, introductory programs for our youngest athletes. Sports Festivals provide athletes with an intellectual disability the opportunity to engage in ability-appropriate activities and games that promote physical activity and healthy living. More information on Sport Festivals can be found [here](#).

The School Championships and Qualifiers Program (previously known as Four Corners) uniquely provides sport training and competition opportunities to high school student-athletes with intellectual disabilities. Our groundbreaking program allows athletes to compete and advance to the Special Olympics Ontario School Championships against other students from across the province. More information on Qualifiers can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions at all about Special Olympics Ontario's programs, the School and Youth program, Sport Festivals, Qualifiers or the Provincial School Championships, please contact us at schools@specialolympicsontario.com.

Sport Festivals

Sport Festivals offer a unique opportunity for students with an intellectual disability to interact with their peers in a safe and active environment, learn some new skills, all while having a fun and exciting experience.

Participants are exposed to a wide variety of activities that develop basic motor skills through fun and play. Students begin to learn physical literacy while being introduced to the basics of several sports. The primary emphasis within this stage is to expand their movement skills to ensure the participant can perform a number of 'FUNdamental' skills. The more motor skills that the participant can perform, the more activities and sports he or she will be able to play with confidence.

If you or your school is considering attending one of our Sport Festivals, registration information can be found [here](#).

Qualifiers

The School Championships and Qualifiers program provides a quality competition experience for students with an intellectual disability aged 13-21 in the sports of athletics, basketball, bocce, floor hockey, and soccer.

We ensure every athlete has a meaningful experience by divisioning our athletes by ability level. What this means is that coaches will rank their athletes prior to each Qualifier and then their team will compete against other teams of a similar ranking. Our advancement opportunities are equitable and thus EVERY athlete and team will have the same opportunity to advance through a Qualifier to our Provincial Games!

We will be hosting 80 regional qualifying competitions throughout the 2019/2020 school year. All qualifiers offer both a Traditional Division, where all athletes have an intellectual disability; as well as a Unified Division where teams are comprised of athletes with an intellectual disability, and mainstream students who compete side-by-side for their school.

Student-athletes at each regional qualifier will be vying for the opportunity to advance to the Provincial School Championships to be held June 2-4, 2020 in Kingston.

If you or your school is considering attending one of our Qualifiers, registration information can be found [here](#).