



**Special Olympics**  
Michigan

# Special Olympics Michigan

## Area 11 – Kent and Barry Counties

### Special Olympics Michigan At-A-Glance

More than 20,679 athletes

23 sports offered

7 state level competitions

Year-round training and competitions

Over 20,000 volunteers

Budget funded entirely by private donations

### Area 11 At-A-Glance

1,200 athletes

300 volunteers

### Area 11 offers the following sports programs:

#### Fall Sports

Soccer  
Soccer Skills  
Poly Hockey

#### Winter Sports

Alpine Skiing  
Cross-Country Skiing  
Speed Skating  
Snowshoeing  
Snowboarding  
Traditional Basketball  
Unified Basketball  
Basketball Skills  
Bowling

#### Spring Sports

Aquatics (Swimming)  
Athletics (Track)  
Bocce  
Bowling  
Gymnastics  
Horseshoes  
Volleyball

#### Summer Sports

Cycling  
Unified Golf  
Softball  
Softball Skills

### Our Mission

To provide year round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendships with their families, other Special Olympic athletes, and the community.

### Our Goal

To help persons with intellectual disabilities 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.

### The Benefits

Athletes who participate in Special Olympics improve physical fitness and motor skills, develop self-esteem and confidence, make friends and increase family support. Special Olympic athletes carry these benefits with them into their daily lives at home, in the classroom and on the job. Families become stronger as they learn a greater appreciation of their athlete's abilities and community volunteers find out what a good friend the athletes can be.

### Eligibility Requirements

Special Olympics training and competition is open to every person with intellectual disabilities who registers to participate in Special Olympics as required by the Special Olympics General Rules.

### Geographical Area

Special Olympic programs are offered in all 83 counties in Michigan. Area 11 encompasses all of Kent and Barry Counties. Area 11 currently has an average of 1,000 athletes involved in the program.

### Volunteers

Area 11 relies on the dedicated support of more than 300 volunteers who offer their time and talents in a number of ways, including coaching, chaperoning athletes at events, assisting with fund raising and helping run local events and games.

### Funding

Special Olympics Michigan is a non-profit organization supported entirely by private funding and without the support of state or federal funds. Generosity of Michigan organizations, individuals, and statewide businesses enable the program to continue. Area 11 has an annual budget that funds year-round programs for the athletes in Kent and Barry Counties. Donations to Special Olympics Michigan-Area 11 can be made via phone at 616 583-1202 or by mail to Special Olympics Michigan-Area 11, 1239 76<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Suite E, Byron Center, MI 49315.

### Special Olympics Michigan Area 11 Office Staff

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[www.somi.org/Area11](http://www.somi.org/Area11)

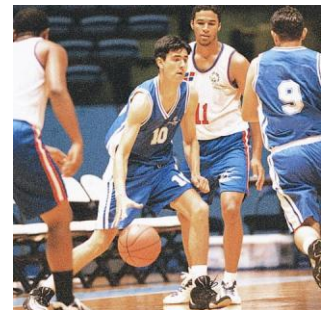


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