



## Area 5 –Mecosta, Osceola, Oceana and Newaygo Counties

REVEALING THE CHAMPION  
IN ALL OF US

**Michigan Facts**  
23,807 athletes

24 sports offered

6 state-level competitions, 4 district basketball tournaments and more than 600 local and regional competitions statewide

Year-round sports training and competitions

Program provided at no cost to athletes or their families

**Area 5 Facts**  
96 athletes

**Area 5 offers the following sports programs:**

Athletics  
Basketball  
Bocce  
Bowling  
Flag Football  
Golf  
Horseshoes  
MATP  
Poly Hockey  
Snowshoes  
Softball  
Swimming  
Volleyball

(All sports dependent on Certified Coach availability)

### 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 friendship with their families, other Special Olympics 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 Olympics 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 athletes can be.

### FUNDING

Special Olympics Michigan is a non-profit organization supported almost entirely by private funding. The generosity of organizations, individuals, and businesses enable the program to continue. Area 5 has an annual budget of \$50,000 that funds year-round programs for the athletes.

### GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Special Olympic programs are offered in all 83 counties in Michigan. Area 5 encompasses all of Mecosta, Osceola, Oceana, and Newaygo Counties.

### VOLUNTEERS

Thousands of volunteers contribute their time, energy and expertise to make the Special Olympics program a reality in Michigan. Area 5 relies on the dedicated support of their 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.

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Special Olympics Michigan 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.

### AREA 5 MANAGEMENT TEAM

Pat Rosales - Area Director  
Kim Chapman - Assistant Area Director, Volunteer, Competition & Training Rep  
Michelle Snyder - Newaygo / Oceana Counties Coordinator  
Amanda Davis – Athlete Rep  
Jennifer Knowles – Fundraising & Social Media Rep  
Sue Maliszewski - Medical Rep  
Michelle Chisholm - Outreach & Public Relations Rep  
Tiffany Wolak - Parent / Family Rep  
Benjamin (Benji) Zorn - Ferris State University SO College Club Rep



Special Olympics Michigan Area 5  
20070 Hahn Beach Drive  
Evart MI 49631-9655  
(231) 527-5238  
[area05@somi.org](mailto:area05@somi.org)