



AREA 05 FACT SHEET

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MICHIGAN FACTS

21, 719 athletes
26 sports offered
7 state-level competitions
3 district basketball
tournaments
More than 900 local and
regional competitions
statewide
Training and competitions
are year-round
Program provided at no
cost to athletes or their
families

AREA 05 FACTS

95 athletes
Area 5 offers the following
sports programs: Athletics,
Basketball, Bocce, Bowling,
Golf, Horseshoes, Poly hockey,
Softball, Snowshoes,
Swimming and Volleyball

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Special Olympic programs are offered
in all 83 counties in Michigan. Area 5
encompasses all of Mecosta-Osceola-
Ocean-Newaygo Counties. Area 5
currently has an average of 95 athletes
involved in the program.

AREA CONTACTS

If interested in becoming involved or if
seeking further information, please
email us at area05@somi.org or call us
at 231-287-2403.

THE MISSION

Special Olympics Michigan's (SOMI) mission is 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 the sharing
of gifts, skills, and friendships with their families, other Special
Olympic athletes, and the community.

THE 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 good friends 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.

VOLUNTEERS

Thousands of volunteers contribute their time, energy, and expertise
to make the Special Olympics program a reality in Michigan. All areas
rely on the dedicated support of volunteers who offer their time and
talents in a number of ways, including coaching, chaperoning athletes
at events, assisting with fundraising, 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.