



About Snowboarding: Snowboarding is a sport that involves descending a slope that is covered with snow on a snowboard attached to a rider's feet using a special boot set onto mounted binding.

Established at Special Olympics: 2001

Differences of Special Olympics Snowboarding: Special Olympics does not offer as many Snowboarding events as the Federation Internationale de Skie. Special Olympics does not offer half pipe, snowboard cross, or parallel events because of the safety considerations in offering these events.

By The Numbers:

- In 2011, 7,945 Special Olympics Athletes competed in Snowboarding events
- In 2011, 37 Special Olympics Programs hosted Snowboarding competitions
- Snowboarding was first introduced to the Olympic Games in 1998 at Nagano, Japan
- Slalom Snowboarding is similar to the events of slalom skiing – where athletes must complete a downhill course while racing through a series of gates.
- Slalom, Giant Slalom and Super Giant Slalom refer to the size and number of turns on each style of course.

Events for Competition:

- 10 Meter Skate
- Glide
- Super Glide
- Novice, Intermediate & Advanced Super Giant Slalom
- Novice, Intermediate & Advanced Giant Slalom
- Novice, Intermediate & Advanced Slalom

Associations/Federations/Supporters: Federation Internationale de Skie (FIS)

Divisioning at Special Olympics:

Athletes in every sport and event are grouped by age, gender, and ability – giving everyone a reasonable chance to win. At Special Olympics there are no World Records because each athlete, whether in the fastest or the slowest division is valued and recognized equally. In every division, all athletes receive an award, from gold, silver, and bronze medals, to fourth through eighth place ribbons. This idea of equal ability groupings is the foundation for competition in Special Olympics and can be witnessed at all events, whether it's athletics, aquatics, table tennis, football, skiing, or gymnastics. All athletes are given an equal chance to participate, perform, and be recognized for doing their best by their teammates, family, friends, and fans."