



**About Table Tennis:** Every athlete aims in passing the ball to the opponent side of the table over the net, striking it with a Table Tennis bat. Table Tennis is a fast sport that requires excellent coordination of hands and eyes. Special Olympics athletes share the essential elements of force and ability so that they can play Table Tennis. Apart from the traditional events, Special Olympics competition includes individual skill events that allow the athletes to work and compete in basic skills of table tennis. The development of these basic skills is necessary for the athletes to take part in the events. These skills include bounce of the ball with the bat, volley and backhand.

**Established at Special Olympics:** 1987

**Differences of Special Olympics Table Tennis:** Special Olympics Table Tennis makes rule modifications for Wheelchair Competition. A cushion of any size and make, of any combination of foam rubber, may be used and the wheelchair is not required to have a back support. Additionally, the table shall not have any physical barrier that can in any way hinder the normal and legal movement of the competitor's wheelchair. Wheelchair players are allowed to touch the playing surface with their free hand during play without losing the point; however, they may not use the free hand on the table for support while striking the ball. Wheelchair competitor's feet or footrests may not touch the floor during play.

### **By The Numbers:**

- In 2011, 151,693 Special Olympics Athletes competed in Table Tennis events
- In 2011, 105 Special Olympics Programs hosted Table Tennis competitions
- In the past seven years, the number of Athletes competing in Table Tennis has nearly tripled!
- Table tennis is also commonly referred to as "Ping Pong"
- Table Tennis has been included in IOC Summer Olympic Games since 1988

### **Events for Competition:**

- Target Serve
- Racket Bounce
- Individual Skills Competition
- Singles
- Doubles
- Mixed Doubles
- Wheelchair Competition
- Unified Sports Doubles
- Unified Sports Mixed Doubles

### **Associations/Federations/Supporters:**

International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)

**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.”