



About Volleyball: The game of volleyball is attractive to all types of players, from competitive to recreational, young and old. To play volleyball players need to acquire a few basic skills, learn a few rules, require very little equipment, and can play the game almost anywhere – from the beach to the gym. The aim of the sport is to score more points by hitting the ball with the hands and sending it over the net to the opponent's court.

Established at Special Olympics: 1983

Differences of Special Olympics Volleyball: Special Olympics offers 5 variations of volleyball: Standard Indoor, Modified Indoor, Unified Indoor, Unified Beach Volleyball, and Skills Competition. Competitions follow FIVB rules with minor modifications which include changes to court size, net height, and volleyball weight and size. Additionally, once a server has scored three consecutive points, his/her team shall rotate to the next server and continue to serve.

By The Numbers:

- Volleyball was invented in the United States in 1805 by William Morgan
- On the 100th anniversary of the sports in 1995, Special Olympics was recognized by the Volleyball Hall of Fame with an induction into its Court of Honor
- Volleyball was first introduced to the Olympic Games in 1964 and is now played in over 200 countries
- In 2011, 116,397 Special Olympics Athletes competed in Volleyball events.
- In 2011, 94 Special Olympics Programs hosted Volleyball competitions
- Volleyball's growth has continued with additions of programs in Serbia, Poland, and Pakistan in 2012

Events for Competition:

- Standard Indoor (6 person)
- Modified Indoor (6 person)
- Individual Skills Competition
- Unified Sports Indoor (6 person)
- Unified Beach (4 person)

Associations/Federations/Supporters: Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB)

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."