FIT 5
Fitness Cards
Africa Region
Version
Special Olympics
Thank you to our sponsors:

Special thanks to the athletes and leaders featured in this guide:
Robbie Albano, Garrett Barnes, Danilo Benitez, James Black, Christa Bleull, Solomon Burke, Loretta Claiborne, Bryce Cole, Benjamin Collins, Novie Craven, Mary Davis, David Godoy, Alicia Gogue, Robert Jones, Terrel Limerick, Alisa Ogden, Tim Shriver, Dan Tucholski, Munir Vohra, Matthew Whiteside, and Joe Wu.
Without exception, people deserve every opportunity to be healthy. Despite severe need and higher health risks, people with intellectual disabilities (ID) are often denied health services and opportunities for increasing their fitness and wellness, resulting in pronounced health disparities and reduced life expectancy.

The mission of Special Olympics 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 a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Inclusive Health and Fitness are important aspects of the Special Olympics mission. Physical activity, adequate nutrition and hydration, accessing quality health care and obtaining opportunities that promote fitness and wellness, will end the health inequality faced by populations with ID. Learn more about how Special Olympics is making a difference all over the world by visiting our website for more information and resources.

At this time of global crisis, we are doing everything we can to provide the necessary support to everyone in our communities to stay fit and healthy. This guide, designed specifically with Special Olympics athletes in mind, can be used by anyone wishing to stay safe and protect their health while staying at home and practising safe physical distancing.

Stay safe and keep fit!

Charles Nyambe
President & Managing Director
Special Olympics Africa Region
How to get your FIT 5

A guide to achieving fitness and your personal best with physical activity, nutrition, and hydration.
What is FIT 5?

Athletes want to perform their best at every competition. You can do this by being fit.

Fit 5 is a plan for physical activity, nutrition, and hydration.

It can improve your health and fitness to make you the best athlete you can be!

Goals of FIT 5

**EXERCISE**

5 days a week

**EAT**

5 total fruits and vegetables per day

**DRINK**

5 water bottles per day
# My Fit 5 Tracker

**Exercise**

Check the box if you exercised today!

Write in the number of minutes you spent active.

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**Nutrition**

How many fruits and vegetables did you eat?

Tick off the boxes.

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**Hydration**

How many bottles (500 ml) of water did you drink?

Tick off the boxes.

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Fill in the circle if you reached your Fit 5 goal this week!

- Exercise
- Nutrition
- Water
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Staying active can keep your body healthy and strong so you are ready when sports practice starts again.

Do things that make your heart beat faster and make you breathe harder.

There are many ways to be active at or near the home, even while practicing social distancing!

EXERCISE IDEAS

- Practice sports drills by yourself or with family
- Turn on some music and dance!
- Clean your house or do yard work
- Walk or jog around your home or neighborhood
- Practice some of your favorite exercises - the next few cards can give you a great workout!

Social distancing means stay 6 feet or 1.5 meters away from others

MY GOAL:
Exercise or do physical activity 5 days a week
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

MY GOAL:
Exercise or do physical activity
5 days a week

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IS ANYTHING YOU DO THAT MAKES YOU MOVE. IT’S EASY TO FIT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INTO YOUR EVERYDAY

What do you like to do to be more active?

Remember to stay hydrated when you exercise.
HYDRATION

MY GOAL:
Drink enough water throughout the day to stay hydrated

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

MY GOAL:
Exercise or do physical activity 5 days a week

BEING MORE ACTIVE MAKES US HEALTHIER

- Improves sleep
- Lowers blood pressure
- Reduces appetite
- Strengthens bones
- Improves mood
- Helps manage weight
- Boosts brain power
- Increases energy

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Endurance

Do each exercise for 30 - 60 seconds

Repeat 3 times

March or Jog in Place

March or jog while standing in one spot.

Switch your arms while you switch your legs.

Go at a steady pace. You can change your pace to make the exercise easier or harder.

OR

High Knee Jog in Place

Try to get your knees as high as you can while you jog in place.

Swing your arms the whole time.

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Endurance

Do each exercise for 30 - 60 seconds

Repeat 3 times

Quick Punches

Stand with your feet a little wider than your shoulders. Bend your knees slightly.

Turn toward your left side. Punch your right arm in that direction.

Return to the center with both hands in fists by your chest and elbows down by your side.

Now, turn toward your right side.

Punch your left arm in that direction.

Endurance

Do each exercise for 30 - 60 seconds

Repeat 3 times

Quick Punches
Endurance

Do each exercise for 30 - 60 seconds

Repeat 3 times

Jumping Jacks

Jump up and spread your legs apart as you swing your arms over your head.

Jump again and bring your arms back to your sides and your legs together.

OR

Forward Jacks

Stand with one foot in front of the other and your arms down by your sides.

Jump up and switch your feet. Swing your arms over your head.

Jump back to the starting position.
**Strength**

Do 10 - 20 of each exercise, then move to the next one

Repeat 3 times

**Chair Squats**

Stand in front of a chair with your arms straight out in front and your feet apart.

Without using your hands, bend at the knees and hips until you are seated in the chair.

Stand back up using your legs only.

OR

**Squats**

Stand with your arms straight out in front and your feet apart.

Bend at the knees and hips, until it’s like you are seated in a chair, and then stand back up.

Keep your chest up and your feet flat on the floor.

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**Strength**

Do 10 - 20 of each exercise, then move to the next one

Repeat 3 times

**Wall Push-Ups**

Stand with hands placed flat on wall at shoulder level and straight arms. Your feet should be behind you so that you are leaning on the wall.

Keep your feet in place and body straight. Bend your arms to bring your chest toward the wall.

Push your arms straight to return to the starting position.

OR

**Push-Up from Knees**
See next page

OR

**Plank Hold**
See following page
**Push-Up from Knees**

Start on your hands and knees. Walk your hands forward and lower your hips until your body is straight. Raise your feet.

Bend your elbows and lower your body toward the ground until your chest touches.

Push your body back up to the starting position while keeping your body straight.

**OR**

**Plank Hold**
See next page
Plank Hold

Start on your hands and knees. Straighten your legs out behind and put the balls of your feet on the floor.

Keep your elbows straight and your body in a long line from heels to head.

Keep your muscles tight and hold this position for 20 seconds.
**Strength**

Do 10 - 20 of each exercise, then move to the next one

Repeat 3 times

**Curl-ups**

Lay on the floor. Bend your knees so your feet are flat on the floor. Reach your arms toward your knees.

Bring your head, neck, and upper back off the ground as you reach toward your knees. Pause and then slowly lower back to the starting position.

OR

**Shin Touches**

See next page
**Shin Touches**

Lay on the floor. Put your legs straight up over your hips and your arms over your head.

Bring your head, neck, and upper back off the ground as you reach toward your shins. Pause and the slowly lower back to the starting position.
Balance

Do each exercise for the time or repetitions in the instructions

Repeat 3 times

Single Leg Stance

Stand on one leg with your arms out to the side.

Try holding this position for 30 seconds.

Note: you can stand near a wall in case you’re worried you might fall.
Balance

Do each exercise for the time or repetitions in the instructions

Repeat 3 times

Walk on a Line

Find or make a straight line on the floor.

Put one foot in front of the other.

Walk on the line for 20 steps.

Tip: Change directions if your line is not long enough for 20 steps.
Flexibility

Practice each stretch for 30 seconds

Repeat for each side

Knee to Chest

Lie on your back and bring your right knee toward your chest.

Gently pull your leg closer to your body until you feel a stretch in the back of your thigh.
Flexibility

Practice each stretch for 30 seconds

Repeat for each side

Overhead Triceps Stretch

Raise one arm and bend your elbow so that your hand touches your back.

Grasp your elbow with your other hand and gently pull your arm closer until you feel a stretch in your upper arm.
**Modified Hurdler Stretch**

Sit on the floor with your legs straight out in front of you.

Bend your right knee, placing the bottom of your foot on the inside of your left knee.

Bend your hips and reach toward your left foot until you feel a stretch in the back of your left leg and the inside of your right hip.

Practice each stretch for 30 seconds

Repeat for each side
MY GOAL: Eat at least 5 fruits and vegetables every day.

I CHOOSE TO EAT MORE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES...

**WHY?**

- They give your body important vitamins, minerals and energy needed for good health.
- Provide energy for your sports performance

**HOW?**

- Eat a fruit a day with lunch
- Make half my plate fruits and vegetables every day. Have a salad for lunch
- When I want crunchy foods, I can eat apple slices, little carrots, celery sticks and snap peas
- Make a fruit smoothie with low fat milk or low fat plain yoghurt for dessert

TIP: Fresh, local and in season fruits and vegetable are the best!
MY GOAL:
Eat at least 5 fruits and vegetables every day.

CREATING A HEALTHY PLATE

You know fruits and vegetables are important for your health, but sometimes it can be difficult to know what other foods you should be eating.

This plate has all the food groups, with some great choices in each group!
MY GOAL:
Eat at least 5 fruits and vegetables every day.

IT'S EASY EVERY DAY

- Make half my plate fruits and vegetables
- Include fruit at breakfast
- Include a salad for lunch and dinner
- Eat a rainbow of colors
- Add vegetable to soups, broth and sandwiches and other foods
- Plant a vegetable or fruit garden at home or in your community

TRACK YOUR DAILY 5 FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN YOUR FIT 5 TRACKING TOOL
HYDRATION

MY GOAL:
Drink 5 bottles of water every day

WHY HYDRATION IS IMPORTANT

- Your body needs water to keep it working properly
- You lose water every day when you go to the bathroom, sweat and even when you breathe
- You need to replace the water you lose so you stay healthy, hydrated and perform at your best

Water is the best choice for hydration!

WATER FOR HEALTH AND SPORT PERFORMANCE

- Drink enough water throughout the day to stay hydrated
- Your bottle should be 16 - 20 ounces or 500 - 600 ml

TIP:
Drink out of a sports water bottle - they are refillable and can hold the right amount of water

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SIGNS OF DEHYDRATION

- You feel thirsty
- You are tired or sluggish
- You have a headache
- Your mouth is dry
- Your urine is dark yellow or brown

URINE CHART
How to tell if you are hydrated

1. Drink water right away, slow down and cool off.
2. Hydrated
   Keep up the good work!
3. Dehydrated
   Drink water.
4. Very Dehydrated
   Drink water. See a doctor, if your urine continues to stay this color.

MY GOAL:
Drink 5 bottles of water every day

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CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
What you need to know

SYMPTOMS

- Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- OR AT LEAST TWO OF THE BELOW SYMPTOMS
- Fever 100.4°F/37.8°C or higher
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
CALL YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS
HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

The virus spreads from one person to others through:

- The air when someone with COVID-19 coughs or sneezes.
- Respiratory droplets. These tiny wet drops spray out when a person who has COVID-19 coughs, sneezes or talks.
- Touching or shaking hands.
- Touching your eyes, mouth, or nose after touching an object or surface an infected person also touched.
HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF?

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Cover your mouth and nose with a face covering when around others
- Practice social distancing. This means stay 6 feet or (about 2 meters) away from others

- Stay home as much as possible, and definitely when you are sick
- Clean surfaces with disinfectant
- Don’t touch your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze or cough
**HANDWASHING**

**MY GOAL:** Have clean hands and prevent spread of germs

**HAND WASHING IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE...**

- Regularly washing your hands with soap and water can protect you from illnesses caused by viruses and bacteria.
- It is the best way to stop germs from spreading.

**WHEN TO WASH YOUR HANDS**

- After using the toilet
- Before preparing, touching, or eating food
- After playing with animals
- After your sports practice
- After coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose or mouth

**HOW DO I KNOW IF I WASHED MY HANDS FOR 20 SECONDS?**

Sing Happy Birthday to yourself twice

OR

Sing the alphabet song to yourself

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Special Olympics Health
Made Possible by Golisano

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6 EASY STEPS TO CLEAN HANDS

1. Wet your hands
2. Apply soap
3. Wash your hands for 20 seconds
4. Rinse well
5. Dry your hands
6. Turn off water with paper towel

Don't forget to scrub between your fingers, under your nails, and the top of your hands.

MY GOAL:
Have clean hands and prevent spread of germs

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