



**About Equestrian:** One of the most fascinating sports during the Special Olympics World Games. The balance, the stability and the right communication between the horse and the rider is a key element for success in Equestrian sport.

**Established at Special Olympics:** 1987

**Differences of Special Olympics Equestrian:** Special Olympics Equestrian encompasses several disciplines. Riders may choose either English or Western tack, and enter the appropriate classes. At the present time, Dressage is the only Special Olympics event that parallels FEI. Other events have been chosen to offer a wide range of activities that athletes can participate in successfully. Equitation is judged on the rider's position and ability to influence the horse, and is the basis for determining divisions.

### By The Numbers:

- In 2011, 18,702 Special Olympics Athletes competed in Equestrian events
- In 2011, there were 75 Special Olympics programs that participated in Equestrian competitions
- From 2010 to 2011, Special Olympics Athlete participation in Equestrian grew by 36%!
- The first Special Olympics Equestrian events were held at the 1987 World Summer games in Indiana where 38 athletes competed

### Events for Competition:

- Dressage
- Prix Caprilli
- English Equitation
- Stock Seat Equitation
- Western Riding
- Working Trails
- Showmanship at Halter/Bridle Classes
- Gymkhana Events
- Drill Teams of twos and fours
- Unified Sports Team Relays
- Unified Sports Drill Teams

**Associations/Federations/Supporters:** Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI)

**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."