



About Golf: Golf is a precision club and ball sport, in which competing players (or golfers) use many types of clubs to hit balls into a series of holes on a golf course using the fewest number of strokes. The game is played on golf “courses”, each of which features a unique design, although courses typically consist of either nine or 18 holes.

Established at Special Olympics: 1995

Differences of Special Olympics Golf: Special Olympics offers varying events for competition, but in individual stroke play competitions, there are a couple of variations from the rules of golf provided by the International Federation. First, if a 10th stroke is played without holing the shot, the player shall record a score of “10x” and proceed to the next hole. In the place of a tie for first place, the winner can be decided (when a playoff is not feasible) by the number of “10x” scores on an athlete’s scorecard. The player with the fewest number of “10x” scores shall be declared the winner.

By The Numbers:

- In 2011, 22,940 Special Olympics Athletes participated in Golf competitions
- In 2011, 79 Special Olympics Programs hosted Golf competitions
- The maximum number of golf clubs an individual is allowed to possess during a round of golf is 14
- Golf was developed in Scotland during the 1400’s

Events for Competition:

- Individual Skills Competition
- Alternate Shot Team Play Competition
- Unified Sports Team Play
- Individual Stroke Play Competition (9 hole)
- Individual Stoke Play Competition (18 hole)

Associations/Federations/Supporters: United States Golf Association; The Rules of Golf as approved by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews

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.”