



About Sailing: Every team of one (1), two (2) or three (3) members aims in achieving to travel with a boat through a specific area in best minimum time. The speed, the power and the intelligence are three very important assets for the success in any sport and Sailing in Special Olympics is not different. The best sailors develop the three aforementioned assets at the maximum of their capabilities.

Established at Special Olympics: 1995

Differences of Special Olympics Sailing: At Special Olympics there are 5 skill levels of competition: Level 1 being the lowest skill level and Level 5 being single handed racing. All scoring shall be in accordance with Racing Rule of Sailing Appendix A, except Rule A2, which is the exclusion of the boat's worst score. Scores from the race or races used to determine divisioning will be included in the series score, based on the boat's finishing position within their division.

By The Numbers:

- In 2011, 4, 237 Special Olympics Athletes competed in Sailing events
- In 2011, 26 Special Olympics Programs hosted Sailing competitions

Events for Competition:

- Level I & II – Unified Sports team
- Level III – All Special Olympics athletes on a team with an on-board coach
- Level IV – The entire team consists of Special Olympics athletes (no coach on board)
- Level V – Special Olympics athletes shall compete single-handed

Associations/Federations/Supporters:

International Sailing Federation (ISAF)

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."