



About Tennis: Tennis is a popular sport played by players of all ages, at all levels of ability. Athletes are trained in all aspects of the game, including stroke production, court craft and the rules of competition. The sport emphasizes values, such as fair play, sportsmanship and respect for fellow competitors. Tennis is not only fun to play, but it is a lifetime sport activity that is fun to practice and fun to learn.

Established at Special Olympics: 1987

Differences of Special Olympics Tennis: Special Olympics Tennis is conducted under ITF rules. The Special Olympics rules for Tennis provide modifications to control the length of matches through no-add scoring and options for short Sets. More recently, Special Olympics has introduced additional options for shorter courts and low-compression balls for athletes of lower ability.

By The Numbers:

- In 2011, 23,361 Special Olympics Athletes competed in Tennis events.
- In 2011, 91 Special Olympics Programs hosted Tennis competitions
- Since 2004, Athlete participation in Tennis has increased by 237%!
- Tennis is played most frequently in North America and in Europe, where there are 40 and 23 programs, respectively

Events for Competition:

- Individual Skills Competition
- Singles
- Doubles
- Mixed Doubles
- Unified Sports Doubles
- Unified Sports Mixed Doubles

Associations/Federations/Supporters:

International Tennis Federation (ITF)

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."