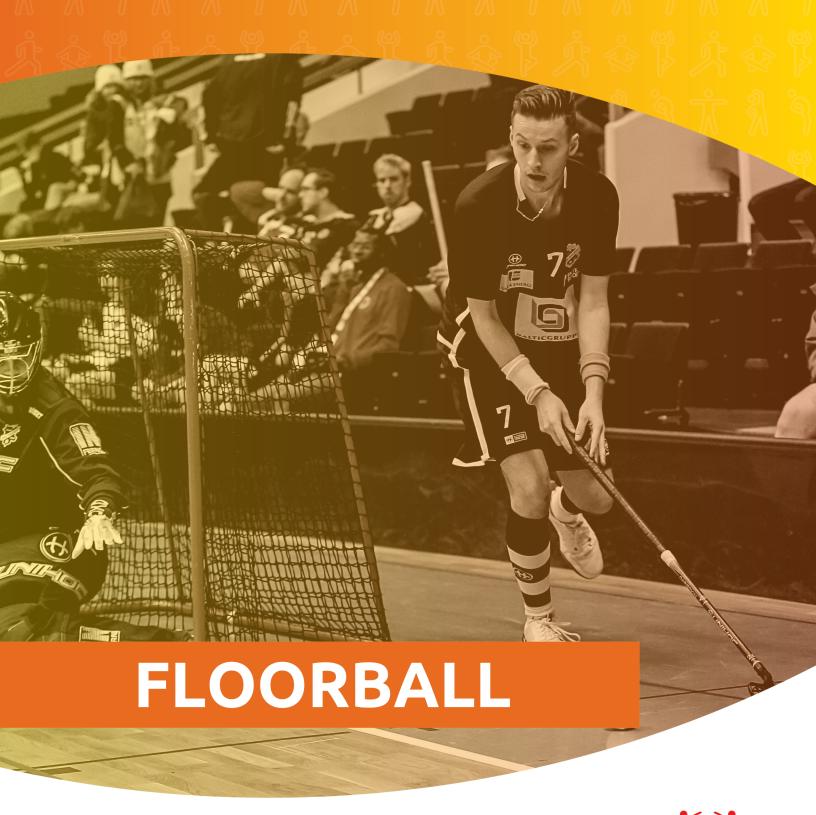
## **DYNAMIC WARM-UP GUIDE**







This resource was supported by cooperative agreement #NU27DD001156 from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are the responsibility of Special Olympics and do not necessarily represent the view of CDC.

## Warm-Up Directions

A warm-up should be the first physical activity in every training session or competition. A good warm-up helps you to reach a state of physical and mental readiness.

A proper warm-up should include:

- Aerobic activity
- Dynamic stretching

The aerobic activity in a warm-down should increase your heart rate. Some aerobic activities are high knees, jumping jacks and a jog around the playing field.

After you complete the aerobic activity, you will want to dynamic stretch the different muscles you'll be using.

#### **HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE**

- Try to do about **15-20 repetitions** of each exercise.
- Many of these stretches can be done in place or across the playing area.
- Select a few exercises that focus on different muscles.



# Sample Warm-Up

#### **AEROBIC ACTIVITIES**

Aerobic activities are whole body movements should last about 5 minutes and increase the heart rate. Select a few exercises from the list below:

- Butt Kicks
- High Knees

- Jumping Jacks
- Light Jog
  - Multidirectional

#### **DYNAMIC STRETCHES**

Dynamic stretches consist of active, controlled movements that take body parts through a full range of motion. If you don't have enough time, select a few that focus on the different muscles used in your sport:

- Arm Circles
- Arm Swings
- Forward Leg Swings
- Heel Walks

- Lateral Leg Swings
- Torso Twists
- Walking High Kicks



## **Arm Circles**

- Stand tall with your arms straight down. Slowly make large circles with your arms in the forward direction.
- Repeat exercises in the backward direction.





# **Arm Swings**

### **DIRECTIONS**

 Start in a standing position with your feet apart and stretch your arms out to the sides making a "T" shape.

 Cross your arms in the front of the body and reach as far back as possible to touch your shoulders or back.

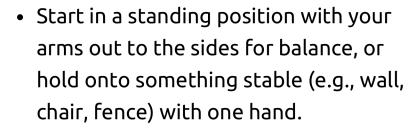
 Uncross your arms and return to your starting position.





# Forward Leg Swings

### **DIRECTIONS**



 Swing/raise one leg out in front and then swing it back behind you. Try to keep the swinging leg straight.

 Repeat the exercises with the other leg. If holding on for balance, then switch hands.



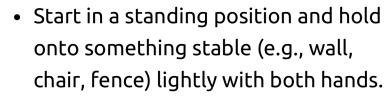
## **Heel Walks**



- Start in a standing position.
- Shift your weight back onto your heels.
- Lift your toes off the ground.
- Stay on your heels and walk forward for 15 20 steps.



# Lateral Leg Swings



- Swing/raise one leg out to the side with your foot flexed and then swing that same leg across your body in front of the standing leg.
- Repeat the exercises with the other leg.



## **Torso Twists**



- Start in a standing position with your feet apart.
- Stretch your arms out to the sides making a "T" shape.
- While keeping your arms out straight and your hips facing forward, turn your upper body and head slowly to one side, return to center, then turn to the other side.

# Walking High Kicks



- With a tall posture and straight back, walk forward and kick one leg out in front as high as you can.
- Keep arms out to your sides or in front, whichever is better to keep your balance.
- Switch sides and kick the other leg in front of you.
- Continue to alternate legs as you walk forward.



## Benefits of a Warm-Up

A warm-up should be the first physical activity in every training session or competition. A good warm-up helps you to **reach a state of physical and mental readiness.** 

### **Physical and Mental Benefits**

- Increase heart rate
- Increase breathing rate
- Increase body and muscle temperature
- Greater blood flow to the active muscles
- Shift focus from life to sport
- Connects the mind and the body

