

Table Tennis

Special Olympics
Ireland



About Table Tennis: Every athlete aims in passing the ball to the opponent's side of the table over the net, striking it with a table tennis bat. Table Tennis is a fast sport that requires excellent hand/eye coordination. Table Tennis is one of only 2 racquet sports currently offered by Special Olympics Ireland. Competition is also offered in singles, double and mixed doubles events.

Established: Table tennis was first introduced to the Special Olympics Ireland programme in 1990.

Differences of Special Olympics Table Tennis: Special Olympics Table Tennis makes rule modifications for Wheelchair Competition.

By The Numbers:

- In 2014, 527 Special Olympics Ireland athletes participated in Table Tennis
- In the past seven years, the number of Athletes competing in Table Tennis has nearly tripled!
- Table Tennis has been included in IOC Summer Olympic Games since 1988

Events for Competition:

- Singles
- Doubles
- Mixed Doubles

Associations/Federations/Supporters:

Irish Table Tennis Association (ITTA) <http://www.tabletennisireland.ie/>

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.

www.specialolympics.ie