



About Equestrian: Equestrian comprises a number of different events and levels based on the ability of the athlete. Riders may compete at one level only in competition and the events offered are currently Equestrian, Dressage and Working Trails.

Established: Equestrian was first introduced to the Special Olympics Ireland programme in the late 80's.

Differences of Special Olympics Equestrian: Special Olympics Equestrian encompasses several disciplines. At the present time, Dressage is the only Special Olympics event that parallels Federation Equestre International. Other events have been chosen to offer a wide range of activities that athletes can participate in successfully. Equitation is judged on the rider's position and ability to influence the horse, and is the basis for determining divisions.

By The Numbers:

- In 2014, 542 Special Olympics Ireland athletes participated in Equestrian
- The first Special Olympics Equestrian events were held at the 1987 World Summer Games in Indiana where 38 athletes competed

Events for Competition:

- Dressage
- Prix Caprilli
- English Equitation
- Working Trails

Associations/Federations/Supporters:

Horse Sports Ireland <http://www.horsesportireland.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.