



About Badminton: Badminton is a sport that is enjoyed all around the world by millions of people of a wide range of ages. It is a sport that explores speed changes, reaction time demands, muscular strength and endurance challenges, and is heart pumping fun. This newly identified Olympic Sport benefits all who pick up a racket and a shuttle for their first time on the court.

Established: In Ireland, badminton was first introduced following the hosting of the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Game.

Differences of Special Olympics Badminton: Special Olympics allows rule modifications in Badminton for wheelchair athletes. These modifications allow for wheelchair athletes to have the option of serving an overhead serve from either the left or right serving area. Additionally, the serving area is shortened to half the distance for Special Olympics wheelchair athletes

By The Numbers:

In 2019, there were 341 Special Olympics athletes that participated in badminton

The fastest recorded badminton stroke was 206 miles/hour!

Badminton was first introduced as an Olympic sport in 1992

Events for Competition:

Singles

Doubles

Mixed Doubles

Associations/Federations/Supporters:

Badminton Ireland

<http://www.badmintonireland.com/>

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