



About Floorball: Floorball is one of the newest team sports to join the Special Olympics programme both worldwide and in Ireland. It is a hockey style game (similar to unihoc and icehockey) and is played in a 4 v 4 format. Floorball is played indoors and due to its smaller team size can provide an opportunity for participation in team sports for clubs with smaller membership. It is a fast game which enables athletes to develop speed, power and agility along with great team spirit!

Established: Variations in the sport of floorball have been played in Special Olympics Ireland for a number of years. As an official sport it was introduced to the Special Olympics international program in 2011, and was offered as a demonstration sport at the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games in South Korea.

Differences of Special Olympics Floorball: In main stream floorball it is played 6 v 6 but in the Special Olympics we play 4 v 4.

By The Numbers:

In 2019, there was 591 Special Olympics Ireland athletes participating in Floorball

As an Official sport it was introduced to the Special Olympics world programme in 2011.

In 2017, 20 athletes represented Ireland at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria.

Events for Competition:

4 v 4

Associations/Federations/Supporters:

international floorball federation (IFF)

<http://www.floorball.org/default.asp>

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.