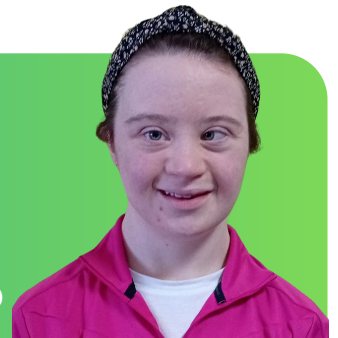




# Athlete Voices

**Emma Barrett**

Team South Galway Special Olympics Club



Emma began in Special Olympics 10 years ago and is an active member of her swimming club. She won Gold at the World Games in Dubai in 2019 and was so proud representing Ireland. She has just completed her Vocational Training in Retail Skills and in her free time enjoys cooking, baking, singing and playing the accordion and tin whistle.



**Fiona Brady**

Navan Arch Special Olympics Club

Fiona has been competing for 25 years. Her sports are table tennis, basketball, floorball and bocce. Her proudest moment include winning a gold medal in 1999 and a silver at the 2025 Berlin World Games. Her fondest memory is the Berlin opening ceremony. In addition to competing, she is a basketball table official. She is employed as an office cleaner for Flexibus. Fiona enjoys discos, shopping, parties, park run, reading, and holidays.

**Michael Carr**

Limerick City Special Olympics



Michael has been an athlete since 2009. His sports are basketball and athletics. He has represented Munster twice at Ireland games. His highlight was winning the gold at 2014 Ireland games. He is a teacher and sports coach. When he is not training, Michael loves to make brownies and other goodies. He loves music and writing poetry.



# Athlete Voices

## Thomas Caulfield

Lourdes Celtic Football Club  
Stewarts Care



Thomas has been an athlete with Special Olympics since 2009. His sport is football and he has represented Ireland on a number of occasions including in the 2015 World Games in Los Angeles. When he is not playing football for Special Olympics, he is busy working in McDonalds.



## Jack Gardiner

Wizards Basketball Club

Jack has been playing Basketball Wizards since 2007. Playing basketball for Ulster at the All-Ireland Games in 2018 is his greatest sporting achievement. His fondest memory is being an all Ireland athlete. Jack is a Fitness Captain and a member of the Ulster Athlete Leaders Committee. He is employed by Titanic Belfast, as retail outlets crew member. He enjoys playing rugby, football, Xbox. He also enjoys socialising with friends, music and being DJ and travelling.

## George Fitzgerald

Special Olympics Waterford Clubs



George has been at athlete since 2002, playing floorball and badminton. He is very proud of winning a Bronze medal for Floorball in the World Winter Games of 2013 South Korea. Captaining the Irish Floorball team at the Games in Austria 2017 is his fondest moment. George has been a Sports Official at two World games. He is also an assistant coach for this year's Ireland floorball team. When he is not volunteering, George loves cooking, travelling, hiking and cycling



# Athlete Voices

**Aoife Gillen**

Flying Trojans Special Olympics Club



Aoife first joined Special Olympics in 2012 as a swimmer but now loves her badminton. She enjoys helping other athletes in Trojans learn the basic skills. Aoife is very creative and helped design the club logo and banner. She really enjoys performing with her choir Chorus, dancing, shopping and swimming.



**Patricia Larkin**

Tribes Swimming Club  
Rackets 4 All

Patricia joined Special Olympics in 2008 and her current sports are swimming and badminton. She is a Fitness Captain and a Health Messenger and volunteers with her swim club. Patricia won Bronze in Basketball for Connaught in Limerick 2014 but her sporting highlight was winning Bronze in the pool in Berlin 2023 in front of her son Patrick and all her family. Patricia works as a kitchen porter and enjoys country music, knitting and long walks in her free time.

**Jackie Stewart**

Down Special Olympics Club



Jackie is a very active member of the Special Olympics family. She is an athlete, volunteer and coach. Golf is her main sport and she competed for Ireland in Berlin. Jackie got a hole in one while training for Berlin! Jackie coaches Young Athletes in her club and also enjoys Bocce. Jackie is on the Ulster Athlete Leader committee and enjoys meeting her friends at the Disability Hub in her free time