

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS



## GLOSSARY

**Arc, The (formerly the Association for Retarded Citizens)** - Agency for people with developmental disabilities.

**Area** - The geographical division of the state. Special Olympics Texas has 19 areas.

**Area Competition** - Special Olympics competition within a certain area.

**Area Conference** - Meeting of all certified coaches in each area to maintain their certification. At the meeting, rule changes, policies and procedures, new sports, calendar of events, etc. will be discussed.

**Athlete in Training (AIT)** - A person with intellectual disabilities who trains in a Special Olympics sport but has not competed during the calendar year.

**Autism** - A severe form of Pervasive Developmental Disorder.

**Certified Coach** - A person who has attended a Special Olympics Texas approved eight hour training school, completed ten practicum hours and submitted an Application for Sports Training Certification.

**Chaperone** - A person who oversees athletes at Special Olympics events; must be at least 18 years of age. A 4 (athlete) to 1 (chaperone) ratio by gender must be adhered to for all SOTX events.

**Chapter** - Official Special Olympics organization within a state or country.

**Chapter Games** - Official Special Olympics sport competitions held at the chapter level, sanctioned by Special Olympics Texas and held three times a year in February, May and October (Winter, Summer and Fall).

**Chapter Office** - Home office of Special Olympics Texas, located in Austin.

**Class A Volunteer** - A person who has regular, close physical contact with athletes, is in a position of authority or supervision (real or apparent), is in a position of trust, or handles substantial amounts of cash (\$15,000 or more annually) or other assets of the program.

**Class B Volunteer** - A person who only has limited contact with athletes or who has contact with athletes accompanied by coaches and chaperones.

**Coaches Certification** - A Special Olympics Texas approved eight hour training school, completion of ten practicum hours with Special Olympics athlete and completion of Application for Sports Training Certification.

**Coaches Training School** - Sport specific instructional session to educate those people interested in coaching Special Olympics athletes.

**Competition Director** - Person responsible for conducting a particular sport competition.

**Demonstration Sports** - Potential official Special Olympics sports.

**Down syndrome** - A congenital condition characterized by moderate intellectual disabilities.

**Emotionally Disturbed (ED)** - Persistently exhibits inappropriate behavior.

**Games** - Refers to Special Olympics competitions from the local to the international level.

**Games Director** - Person responsible for conducting and overseeing a Special Olympics games/competition.

**General Orientation** - A general orientation of Special Olympics approximately 90 minutes. Required for all Class A volunteer applicants and recommended for anyone interested in volunteering with Special Olympics Texas.

**Global Messengers** - Special Olympics athletes trained as public speakers to promote the outreach effort.

**Head Coach** - Primary coach of a Special Olympics team, must be certified.

**Head of Delegation (HoD)** - Person ultimately responsible for a Special Olympics team. Must be certified in at least one Special Olympics sport.

**Hearing Impaired (HI)** - Serious hearing loss even after corrective medical treatment and amplification.

**Individual Education Plan (IEP)** - A plan for special education students in the school system.

**Individual Transition Plan (ITP)** - A plan for special education students beginning at age 16 to begin to transition out of school.



**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** - Federal law #101-476 mandating services for persons with disabilities.

**Intellectual Disabilities** - Significant subaverage intellectual functioning and marked impairment in adaptive behavior. The terminology is synonymous with mental retardation.

**International Headquarters** - Home office of Special Olympics, Inc. located in Washington, D.C.

**Learning Disabled (LD)** - Difficulty in information processing.

**Local Competition** - One local competition and two scrimmages are required in order to participate in area and/or regional competition between two teams who do not usually train together. Two local competitions are required in order to participate in area and/or regional competition.

**Motor Activities Training Program (MATP)** - A developmental training program for Special Olympics athletes with low functioning levels that cannot participate in other Special Olympics competitions.

**Multiply Impaired (MI)** - Person with more than one disability.

**National Games** - National Special Olympics competition held every four years, usually in the summer.

**National Governing Body (NGB)** - Sports body governing specific sports. Special Olympics rules are based on National Governing Body rules.

**Official Sports** - Sports officially approved by Special Olympics, Inc. Special Olympics Texas offers 21 official Special Olympics sports.

**Outreach** - Program to expand participation of athletes and volunteers in Special Olympics.

**Protective Behaviors** - A brief SOI training for all Class A volunteers regarding preventing physical, emotional, and sexual abuse of Special Olympics athletes. The training must be retaken every three years to maintain Class A status. It is available online at [www.specialolympics.org/protectivebehaviors](http://www.specialolympics.org/protectivebehaviors).

**Region** - Specific areas of Special Olympics Texas – north, south/central, east and west.

**Regional Competition** - Special Olympics competition within a specific region.

**Sanction** - Approval to authorize Special Olympics Texas athletes and volunteers to participate in a specific clinic, exhibition, training school or competition.

**Special Olympics, Inc. (SOI)** - Sanctioning body for all Special Olympics programs worldwide.

**Sport Director** - People (volunteers) that are proficient in a particular sport oversee specific sport areas within Special Olympics Texas.

**Sports Management Team** - A committee of people (volunteers) consisting of representatives for competition and training, both area and chapter levels.

**Sports Skills Guides** - Sport specific teaching guide designed to provide specific information about training Special Olympics athletes.

**Sport Specific** - Refers to a particular Special Olympics sport.

**State Games** - See Chapter Games.

**Special Olympics Texas (SOTX)** - Sanctioning body for all Special Olympics programs in Texas, headquartered in Austin.

**Team Evaluation Questionnaire (TEQ)** - Required team assessment form for basketball, softball, soccer, and volleyball.

**Tournament** - Single sport competition at any level.

**Training Schools** - Various Special Olympics trainings for athletes, coaches and volunteers.

**Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)** - A disability resulting from an injury to the brain.

**Unified Sports®** - Special Olympics team and individual sports that combine Special Olympics athletes with athletes without intellectual disabilities of similar age and ability.

**Visually Impaired (VI)** - Serious vision loss even with correction.

**World Games** - International Special Olympics competition held every four years, usually February/March and June/July (winter and summer).

**Young Athletes™ Program (YA)** - An innovative sports play program for children with intellectual disabilities, designed to introduce them to the world of sports prior to Special Olympics eligibility at age 8.