



## In Massachusetts

10,311 volunteers and 1,289 coaches donate their time, energy and expertise making it possible for 12,168 athletes to compete for the gold.



## 2011 Organization Overview

### Did You Know?

- 12,168 SOMA athletes in 2010
- 27 Different individual and team sports athletes may compete in each year
- 10,311 Volunteers who donate time, energy and expertise helping with athletic events and fundraising
- 1,289 Volunteer coaches who donate their time and train athletes to compete in events
- 442 Dollars to fund a SOMA athlete for one year in training and competition
- 84.13 Percent of fundraising dollars that go toward funding SOMA athletes each year
- 1,010 Athletes were screened in Healthy Athletes program in 2010
- 1,694 Athletes ranging in age from 2-7 participated in the Young Athletes program
- 122 Organized sports competitions annually

### Ways to get Involved

Have a favorite sport or pastime?

**Volunteer** – To volunteer or learn about volunteer opportunities please contact Martha Dove at [Martha.Dove@SpecialOlympicsMA.org](mailto:Martha.Dove@SpecialOlympicsMA.org)

**Partnerships/Sponsorships** – If your company is interested in partnering with our organization, please contact Jay O'Brien at [Jay.O'Brien@SpecialOlympicsMa.org](mailto:Jay.O'Brien@SpecialOlympicsMa.org)

**Coach** – Have a favorite sport or past time? Share your talent with our 12,168 Special Olympics athletes. Contact George Kent at [George.Kent@SpecialOlympicsMA.org](mailto:George.Kent@SpecialOlympicsMA.org) for more information on coaches training sessions.

**Athletes** – To find a local program near you contact the North Section, South Section or West Section Offices. All contact information can be found at [www.SpecialOlympicsMA.org](http://www.SpecialOlympicsMA.org), and click on "In Your Town."

**Fundraising Events** – Want to get involved in a fun way to support the athletes? Come plunge, bike, or run in one of Special Olympics' fundraising events. Please contact Steve Huftalen at [steve.huftalen@SpecialOlympicsMa.org](mailto:steve.huftalen@SpecialOlympicsMa.org) for more information.

### About Us

Special Olympics Massachusetts (SOMA) provides year-round sports training, athletic competition and other health-related programming for 12,168 athletes with intellectual disabilities. Through the power of sports, the Special Olympics movement has a major impact on the lives of people with and without intellectual disabilities, uniting Massachusetts communities by fostering a sense of goodwill and inclusion.

Through other vital programs such as Healthy Athletes and the affiliation with the University of Massachusetts Medical School, SOMA seeks to have a major impact on the quality and availability of healthcare for individuals with intellectual disabilities. These programs provide athletes with critical health screenings in disciplines such as hearing, vision, dental, foot, and spinal as well as providing referrals for follow up care. As an affiliate of the UMass Medical School, SOMA will be developing curriculum to train the next generation of medical professionals to better serve and understand individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics is a positive, powerful force in the lives of athletes and all that come in contact with the organization. Through participation in Special Olympics programs athletes gain increased self-confidence and self-esteem, access to quality health screenings and programs, and a vast social network that provides a greater quality of life.

*"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."*  
- Athlete Oath



## 27 Individual & Team Sports

Alpine Skiing	Cycling	Gymnastics	Race-Walking	Softball
Aquatics	Equestrian	Floor Hockey	Roller Skating	Speed Skating
Athletics	Figure Skating	Horseshoes	Sailing	Ten Pin Bowling
Basketball	Fishing	Nordic Skiing	Snowboarding	Tennis
Bocce	Flag Football	Power Lifting	Soccer	Volleyball
Candlepin Bowling	Golf			



**Our Programs**  
From the pool to the ice rink,  
Cape Cod to the Berkshires - we  
have something for everyone.

## What We Offer

The majority of SOMA athletes participate in the Traditional Sports Program. Working with volunteer coaches, they train and compete with peers of like age, gender and ability. Through participation in local practices and competition, athletes qualify for sectional and statewide events. Athletes must be at least 8 years old and are required to train for eight weeks prior to state events.

There are five major competitions held in various parts of Massachusetts: Summer Games, Winter Games, August Tournament, Senior Sports Classic and Fall Tournament.

## How We're Organized

Training and competition in 27 sports occurs at three levels:

**Local** - At the local level, sports programs (teams) train for at least eight weeks in their own communities in preparation for sectional and state-wide competitions.

**Sectional** - Programs are divided into three sections within the state: North, South and West. After training at the local level, programs compete in section-wide assessment rounds in each sport.

**State** - After competing in the sectional assessment rounds, all programs have the opportunity to advance to state-level tournaments. Competition in 27 sports is offered at 5 annual state-wide games.



## Additional Programs Offered by SOMA

### Unified Sports®

Special Olympics Unified Sports brings together athletes with and without intellectual disabilities to train and compete on the same teams. Athletes improve their physical fitness, sharpen their skills and learn acceptance and inclusion while participating on Unified Sports teams, founded in Massachusetts, is now an international initiative.

### Motor Activities Training Program (MATP)

MATP is a motor skills development initiative designed for persons with severe limitations who do not yet possess the physical skills necessary to participate in official Special Olympics sports. Developed by physical therapists and recreational therapists, the program emphasizes training and participation rather than competition.

### Healthy Athletes®

Designed to help athletes and their families access quality healthcare, this program utilizes volunteer services of qualified health professionals and provides dental, vision, hearing, foot and spinal screenings for athletes attending competitions.

### Young Athletes™

It is an innovative sports play program for children ages 2-7 with intellectual disabilities. Young Athletes introduces children to the world of sports prior to Special Olympics eligibility at age 8.

### School-based Programs

SOMA's school-based programs include: After School Intramural Programs and School Day Games – a full day event offering competition for individuals and school teams, involving school officials, teachers, families and community volunteers.

## Senior Staff

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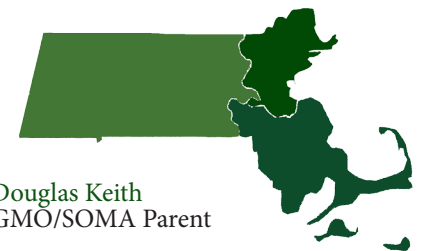
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