



About Figure Skating: Figure skating is a sport in which individuals, pairs, or groups perform spins, jumps, footwork and other intricate and challenging moves on ice skates. Figure skaters compete at various levels from beginner up to the Olympic level (senior), and at local, national, and international competitions

Established at Special Olympics: 1977

Differences of Special Olympics Figure Skating:

By The Numbers:

- In 2011, 7,304 Special Olympic Athletes participated in Figure Skating competitions
- In 2011, 43 Special Olympics Programs held Figure Skating competitions
- From 2005 – 2011, Special Olympics Figure Skating has grown by 40%
- Olympic Figure Skater Michelle Kwan is an active supporter of Special Olympics

Events for Competition:

- Skills Competition
- Singles Competitions
- Pair Skating
- Ice Dancing
- Unified Sports Pairs Skating
- Unified Sports Ice Dancing

Associations/Federations/Supporters:

International Skating Union

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."