



About Roller Skating: Roller Skating is a lifetime fitness sport, well-suited for both children and adults. In addition to building cardiovascular fitness, it contributes to the development of balance and coordination. Another major benefit is the sport's potential for social integration as a recreational activity. People who master basic skills can participate in family, school, church, and community roller skating outings. The wide range of competitive events offered meet the needs of athletes with limited balance and challenge those with advanced skill.

Established at Special Olympics: 1987

Differences of Special Olympics Roller Skating:

By The Numbers:

- In 2011, 44,231 Special Olympics Athletes competed in Roller Skating Events
- In 2011, 40 Special Olympics Programs hosted Roller Skating competitions
- Roller Skating was inaugurated at the 1987 Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Indiana, USA
- Training sessions are usually year round with a culminating event at Fall Festival in November

Events for Competition:

- There are 35 different Roller Skating Events:
 - Artistic Competitions
 - Speed Competitions
 - Hockey Competitions

Associations/Federations/Supporters: Federation Internationale de Roller Skating (FIRS)

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."