



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

MOTOR ACTIVITY TRAINING PROGRAM

Since 1968, Special Olympics has dedicated itself to bringing opportunities to participate in sports to individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID), of all ability levels. Now present in over 190 countries and engaging over 5 million athletes with ID, Special Olympics has become the largest grassroots disability sports organization in the world. The Special Olympics movement has helped pioneer new ways of thinking, understanding, and engaging a population often on the margins of their societies.

The Special Olympics Motor Activity Training Program (MATP) is a Special Olympics program that provides persons with severe or profound ID with the opportunity to participate in adapted physical activities. This non-competitive program develops skills related to Special Olympics official sports and places an emphasis on achieving an athlete's personal best. Through MATP, Special Olympics is able to demonstrate that people of all levels of ability can participate and benefit from physical activity and experience social inclusion through sport.



Challenge: Reaching the Most Marginalized

Children and adults with severe or profound intellectual disabilities are often the most marginalized within the already marginalized group of persons with ID. They are more likely to have associated health conditions and have a mortality rate that is three times higher than the general population. Research also shows that they are less likely to experience social inclusion in their communities.

Opportunity: Leave No One Behind



Special Olympics is committed to inclusion for all. Without reaching those who are most excluded, we will not succeed in our mission. MATP is critical to this work. In line with the call of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to "Leave No One Behind", MATP ensures that no one is left out of Special Olympics because of their ability level. By training more coaches and providing more resources to support ongoing training and events, Special Olympics will increase the number of individuals with severe/profound ID with the opportunity to develop their full potential.

"Sport gives us a place to belong and to develop skills we never knew we had... MATP is such a good example of the real meaning of inclusion."

Ian Harper - Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger



ABOUT MATP

MATP focuses on skills such as walking, rolling, throwing, striking, kicking, manual/electric wheelchair, and water skills that are considered the foundation for sport. MATP offers modifications to different activities within each of these skills to tailor them to participants' individual functional abilities.

MATP coaches are often professionals from fields such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, or adapted physical education. Special Olympics hosts local, non-competitive "Challenge Days" for MATP participants to demonstrate the skills they have learned for their families and communities and celebrate the progress they have achieved.

By the Numbers

52,370

MATP Athletes
Globally

26,076

MATP Athletes
Europe/Eurasia

3,120

MATP Coaches
Europe/Eurasia

1.1-1.5 Million

People with severe/profound intellectual disabilities in the EU

TARGET

+500 NEW

MATP Athletes
Europe/Eurasia

TARGET

+120 NEW

MATP Coaches
Europe/Eurasia

