

Sailing Facts

Sailing is one of Special Olympics' newer sports, having been included in the World Games for the first time in 1995.

The 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games hosted 50 sailors from four Special Olympics Programs.

At the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Dublin, Ireland, 60 sailors from 7 Programs competed in sailing.

As of the 2005 Special Olympics Athlete Participation Report, 4,408 Special Olympics athletes compete in sailing.

Sailing Events

Level 1 — Unified Sports: the Special Olympics athlete member(s) of the crew will have responsibility for head sail trim

Level 2 — Unified Sports: a Special Olympics athlete member of the crew shall control the helm for at least 50% of the race

Level 3 — All Special Olympics athlete team, with an onboard coach. The athletes have complete control of the boat. The coach can offer verbal assistance without becoming physically involved with the sailing of the boat

Level 4 — The entire team consists of Special Olympics athletes, no onboard coach (Note, for Level 2, 3 and 4, teams may elect to use spinnaker sails)

Level 5 — Special Olympics athlete competes single handed.