



**About Floor Hockey:** Floor hockey is a family of indoor hockey games, usually in the style of ice hockey, that are played on flat floor surfaces, such as a basketball court. As in other hockey codes, players on each team attempt to shoot a ball or puck into a goal using sticks, usually with a curved end.

**Established at Special Olympics:** 1970

**Differences of Special Olympics Floor Hockey:** Special Olympics, Inc. is the International Governing Body for Floor Hockey, so all rules are created by Special Olympics. However, Floor Hockey is unique within Special Olympics because the sport is played at every skill level using the exact same rules. Another important rule of Special Olympics Floor Hockey is that all players on the team, with the exception of the goalie, are required to play equal amount of time during each game.

### **By The Numbers:**

- In 2011, 71,998 Special Olympic Athletes participated in Floor Hockey competitions
- In 2011, 79 Special Olympic Programs hosted Floor Hockey competitions
- Floor Hockey is the only team sport in the Special Olympic Winter Games
- Since 2005, Athlete participation in Floor Hockey has increased by approximately 130%!

### **Events for Competition:**

- Individual Skills Competition
- Team Competition
- Unified Sports Team Competition

### **Associations/Federations/Supporters:**

Special Olympics, Inc. is the International Governing Body for Floor Hockey

### **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."