



World Games & Special Olympics Team Canada - Quick Facts

Special Olympics Team Canada is a proud group of 163 athletes, coaches, and mission staff from all over the country preparing to represent Canada at the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games being held in Abu Dhabi and Dubai from March 13 to 21, 2019.

From March 13 to 21, 2019 Abu Dhabi and Dubai, UAE will host the world's largest sporting and humanitarian events planned for calendar 2019.

This is the first time a Special Olympics World Games will be held in the Middle East/North Africa in the history of the movement's 50-year history. The 9-days of competition are expected to bring together:

- 7,000 athletes,
- 3,000 coaches,
- 20,000 volunteers
- 177 countries
- 500,000 fans and friends.

Special Olympics Canada 163-person delegation includes:

- 109 athletes from all 12 Special Olympics provincial and territorial Chapters
- 36 coaches
- 18 mission staff

Team Canada will compete in nine sports: 10-pin bowling, athletics, basketball, bocce, golf, powerlifting, rhythmic gymnastics, soccer and swimming.

The 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games will feature competition in both Abu Dhabi and Dubai – 10-pin bowling, basketball, bocce, golf, powerlifting, rhythmic gymnastics and soccer will be held in Abu Dhabi, while athletics and swimming will be held in Dubai.

To be chosen for Special Olympics Team Canada, athletes must qualify first through their regional competition, then through a Provincial Games and finally through a National Games. World Games happen every two years, alternating between Summer and Winter Games.

The first Special Olympics Games was held in 1968 in Chicago, Illinois and featured athletes from only two countries, the US and Canada.

For more information on Special Olympics Team Canada, go to specialolympics.ca/TeamCanada or follow us on Twitter and Facebook @SpecialOCanada or through our official Games hashtag, #SOTeamCanada19 or #ÉquipeOSCanada19