



## ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAM BC 2020

OUR PHILOSOPHY: Special Olympics Team BC 2020 is a passionate, committed group of athletes, coaches, and mission staff who believe in each other and in empowerment through the joy of sport. With our big hearts and our respect for everyone who has been and will be part of our journey, we are determined to achieve excellence in our training process and on and off the fields of play at the 2020 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Thunder Bay.

- Our team is comprised of 143 athletes with intellectual disabilities, 42 volunteer coaches, and 13 volunteer mission staff, from 42 communities across British Columbia.
- We are fortunate to have the support of a vital network of hometown training coaches, of our families, friends, and community supporters, and of the sponsors who help make Special Olympics programs and competitions possible.
- Our team will compete in eight sports at the National Games:
  - 5-pin bowling
  - Alpine skiing
  - Cross country skiing
  - Curling
  - Figure skating
  - Floor hockey
  - Snowshoeing
  - Speed skating
- The Special Olympics Team BC 2020 athletes qualified for their spots on the provincial team through their performances at the [2019 Special Olympics BC Winter Games](#) in Greater Vernon last February.
- In Thunder Bay, athletes will be pursuing personal bests and competing for the opportunity to represent Canada in international competition.
- Being part of Team BC provides athletes with opportunities to build confidence, further develop their skills, and make new friends.
- Special Olympics Team BC's [youngest athlete is 14](#), and oldest is 74 – bowler [Maurice Bernier of Port Alberni](#) will be the [oldest athlete competing in these National Games!](#)



**TEAM BC 2020**

SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
BRITISH COLUMBIA



**Special Olympics**  
British Columbia



- Team BC members have worked hard to prepare for the National Games, training at least three times a week for the last 10 months. Training has included sport-specific work in their local Special Olympics programs, Club Fit, additional fitness and dryland training, working with sport-specific experts, and focusing on diet and nutrition.
- Team BC will inspire everyone with their abilities, sportsmanship, and determination.
- Find Team BC information at [www.soteambc2020.ca](http://www.soteambc2020.ca)

## **ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC**

OUR MISSION: Special Olympics BC is dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities through sport.

OUR VISION is that sport will open hearts and minds towards people with individuals with intellectual disabilities through sport.

- Special Olympics is more than an event – Special Olympics BC delivers year-round high-quality sport programs to people with intellectual disabilities daily in 55 communities throughout our province.
- Special Olympics BC's programs cater to all ages and a wide range of abilities.
  - We have programs for children, youth, and adults – as of July 2019, the youngest SOBC athletes are two years old and the oldest is 92!
  - We provide an introduction to sport and physical activity, year-round sport and training programs for a wide range of ability levels, and opportunities to participate in local, regional, national, and international competitions.
- Special Olympics programs are delivered by trained coaches and dedicated volunteers.
- Special Olympics is a charitable organization that relies on public, corporate, and government support to deliver low- to no-cost athletic programs in B.C. communities.
- In Special Olympics BC, there are more than 5,200 athletes and 4,300 volunteers.
- Special Olympics BC offers 18 summer and winter sports as well as youth programs tailored for children and youth with intellectual disabilities (ages 2 to 18) and fitness and health programming.