

# THE FUTURE OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS' MOTOR ACTIVITY TRAINING PROGRAM (MATP)

The population with intellectual disabilities (ID) is often not considered a priority for governments and communities alike. Individuals with profound/multiple disabilities (PMD) are even further forgotten. This is because of their inability to be active and engaged citizens in the ways that we have come to understand. As a result, government officials have not necessarily advocated for or supported their rights. However, increasing the exposure and interaction between those with PMD, milder forms of ID, and neurotypical people is essential to fostering social connectedness.

## BACKGROUND

MATP is an adapted sports program designed for those with PMD [1].

MATP trains seven different motor skills: striking, kicking, dexterity, mobility, manual and electric wheelchair, and swimming.

There are many barriers to the implementation of MATP and to the social inclusion of those with PMD.



## GENERAL BARRIERS



A lack of incentive on the part of governments to provide funding [2].

A lack of service availability and accessibility [3].

A persistence of segregated school systems.

A lack of data and research on the MATP target population.

A country's level of political development, prevalence of poverty, as well as class, immigration, and race.

## FACTS AND STATISTICS



62% of national constitutions guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities and omit discriminatory clauses [4].



However, distinctions are NOT made between people with physical disabilities, milder forms of ID, and PMD.



Transportation is most often cited as the main barrier to the inclusion of those with PMD [5].

## RECOMMENDATIONS



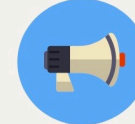
#1 - Consider changing the name of MATP to a term that is more concise, clear, inclusive and fun



#2 - Work towards designing a Unified Champion/Inclusive Schools Model for MATP athletes/candidates



#3 - Consider bringing MATP to existing residential institutions or special schools to eliminate additional transport costs



#4 - Increase overall public awareness of those with PMD

1. Motor Activity Training Program. Special Olympics Coaching Guide, last modified 2005. PDF. <https://www.specialolympics.org/~/media/Special%20Olympics/2015/07/Chapter-V-Persons-with-disabilities-breaking-down-barriers.pdf>.  
2. UN. Chapter V Persons with disabilities: breaking down barriers. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/disability-report/2011/07/Chapter-V-Persons-with-disabilities-breaking-down-barriers.pdf>.  
3. "WORLD REPORT ON DISABILITY," last modified 2011. [https://www.who.int/disabilities/world\\_report/2011/report/en/](https://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report/en/).  
4. "WORLD REPORT ON DISABILITY: THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BUILT FOR AND WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES," last modified 2019. PDF.  
5. Elmeri Rissanen. Telephone interview by the author, Montreal, QC, July 11, 2019. ; Bernhard Schmid, e-mail interview by the author, Montreal/Vienna, QC/A1, July 19, 2019.