

Special Olympics & Para-Gymnastics - Network meeting -

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Red thread to follow topics

Background / Starting point / History

- Germany
- US
- UK
- World

Special Olympics

Para-Gymnastics

Follow-up

Background Germany

History

- Special Olympics World Games 2023 in Berlin
- No known program for Special Athletes

Clubs

- national gymnastics federation → no program for Special Athletes or Para-Gymnastics
- national SpecialOlympics → real development of gymnastics started after 2023
- all are specialised in something, but weren't aware of Special or Para Athletes in Gymnastics

Politics

- local clubs normally follow what the national clubs provide
- new things need to be developed in local clubs and then made bigger until national club is interested
- a lot of personal effort needed for development

Background US

→ Cindy Bickman

History

- at least 50 years experience in inclusion of Special Athletes
- big competitions include Special Athletes (e.g. 2000 participants and 150 Special Athletes)
- Cindy has her own Gym where a lot Special Athletes train
- Cindy one of the main persons behind development of SpecialOlympics gymnastics program and now also of the Para-Gymnastics program

https://read.nxtbook.com/special_olympics/guide_books/special_olympics_gymnastics_a/final_word.html

Background UK

History

- long experience in providing possibilities for Special and Para Athletes
- Championships for Down Syndrome Athletes
- British Para Athlete is Ambassador for getting Gymnastics to Paralympics
- exclusive competitions for Special Athletes (not as inclusive as in USA)

<https://www.british-gymnastics.org/articles/para-gymnastics-recognised-as-official-discipline-by-federation-internationale-de-gymnastique-in-game-changing-vote>

<https://www.british-gymnastics.org/articles/bg-reiterates-ambition-for-gymnastics-to-become-paralympic-sport-by-brisbane-2032>

Special Olympics

https://resources.specialolympics.org/sports-essentials/sports-and-coaching/gymnastics/womens-artistic-gymnastics-2019-2027?_ga=2.45019172.1050168645.1662801031-560734843.1653385520

Para-Gymnastics

- officially accepted within FIG
- at the moment no official guidelines accessible
- working group is still discussing
- unofficial rule book is in testing

Follow-up

Stefanie:

- formation of network
- work for and create more opportunities for Athletes

Motor Mickten:

- seminar on inclusion within sport
- interested in creating gymnastics program for Athletes