



SPECIAL OLYMPICS NZ
**2025 NATIONAL
SUMMER GAMES**
ŌTAUTAHĪ CHRISTCHURCH

PREMIER
PARTNER

FREEMASONS
New Zealand



2025 National Summer Games | Media Toolkit

Overview

The Special Olympics New Zealand 2025 National Summer Games is **New Zealand's largest celebration of inclusion through sport.**

From **10–14 December 2025**, more than **1,200 athletes with intellectual disabilities** from **42 clubs nationwide** will compete in **10 sports** across **Ōtautahi Christchurch**.

Hosted by Special Olympics New Zealand, the Games bring together athletes, families, volunteers, and supporters to **celebrate courage, respect, integrity, inclusion, and excellence.**

Event Snapshot

When: 10–14 December 2025

Where: Ōtautahi Christchurch

Sports: Athletics • Basketball • Bocce • Equestrian • Football • Golf • Indoor Bowls • Powerlifting • Swimming • Tenpin Bowling

How to Attend

All events are free to attend — everyone is welcome.

- [Opening Ceremony tickets are available here.](#)
- Turn up to sport events to support athletes (**note** no capacity at Indoor Bowls or Tenpin Bowling events).

Premier Partner Freemasons New Zealand

Presenting Partner NOVUS Glass supported by Mediaworks NZ

Supporting Partners Christchurch City Council • Datacom • NZCT Community Trust • Grassroots Trust Central • Pelorus Trust • Kiio • One Sunday • Pub Charity • Kiwi Gaming Foundation • Aotearoa Gaming Trust • University of Canterbury • Firstport • Miles Toyota • Law Enforcement Torch Run



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Be Part of Something Special!

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Event Highlights

Flame of Hope: Law Enforcement Torch Run: The iconic torch travels the length of Aotearoa before lighting the Cauldron in Christchurch on 10 December at the Opening Ceremony.

Opening Ceremony: An athlete-centric celebration of what is to come — a National Summer Games that everyone can be proud to be part of.

Competition Days: 10 sports • 4 days • 6 venues • every event free to attend for whānau and friends of the athletes. And, where venues have sufficient capacity, the public are welcome to come and show their support:

- Ngā Puna Wai Sports Hub – Athletics, Bocce, Football and Powerlifting
- Parakiore Recreation and Sports Centre – Swimming and Basketball
- Riding for the Disabled Arena – Equestrian
- Harewood Golf Club – Golf

Event Programme: A full programme of events can be found: nsg2025.co.nz/programmes

Young Athletes Programme: The Young Athletes Programme will be held at Parakiore Recreation and Sport Centre, with sessions 11-13 December. This is limited to Young Athletes families who have pre-registered. The programme will include a number of 45-minute inclusive play sessions, the opportunity to connect with other whānau, and participating in various activities related to the wider Games.

Healthy Athletes Programme: Hosted at Parakiore Recreation and Sports Centre, the Healthy Athletes Programme provides free health screenings for all competing athletes from Wednesday to Sunday. Screenings include Dental (Special Smiles), Podiatry (Fit Feet), Optometry (Opening Eyes), and Audiology (Healthy Hearing) — supporting athletes' overall health and wellbeing.

Closing Party: A time for our athletes and clubs to celebrate, a recognition of achievement, belonging, and connection.



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The Story Behind the Games

Creating Something Special – The Journey to Christchurch

Across Aotearoa, athletes, families, and coaches have been preparing for months — training at local sports grounds, community centres, and school facilities. **Each club brings its own story, built on volunteer commitment, teamwork, and the belief that everyone deserves the chance to take part in sport.**

The journey is symbolised by the **Law Enforcement Torch Run**, which carries the Flame of Hope across the country to the Opening Ceremony. It is carried by New Zealand Police officers, athletes, and supporters in over **15 towns and cities** in the build up to the Games. In 2025, the Torch Run marks its 40th year, continuing a proud tradition of law enforcement standing with Special Olympics New Zealand communities to celebrate courage, respect, and inclusion.

Celebrating Something Special – Together in Christchurch

From 10–14 December, athletes, clubs, whānau, volunteers, and supporters will gather in Christchurch for **five days of competition and celebration**. Competitions will unfold across the city, each one shaped by teamwork and support. From the clubs that train together year-round, to the families and volunteers who make the Games possible. Teamwork and encouragement are at the heart of every event, showing what's possible when communities support one another through sport.

The National Summer Games focuses on abilities and what is possible – athletes are celebrated at every level from participation through placings from 8th to 1st. It is a symbol of huge personal achievement in addition to a strong sense of competition. The National Summer Games showcase what **Special Olympics New Zealand** stands for: courage, respect, integrity, excellence and the strong belief that everyone belongs.

Remembering Something Special – Back Home

When the Games conclude and athletes return home, their experiences and knowledge travel with them — back to clubs, schools, and communities across the country. The friendships and experiences formed in Christchurch **inspire new athletes to join and strengthen a network of people** who know what inclusion looks like — and what it can achieve.

The work of Special Olympics New Zealand continues year-round, supporting clubs, schools, and athletes nationwide — with opportunities that span early childhood, athlete leadership programmes, and major events.

Text NOVUS to 3598 to donate.

Help support this work and future opportunities to come.





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About Special Olympics New Zealand

Established in 1983, Special Olympics New Zealand has been enriching the lives of people with intellectual disabilities through sport for more than 40 years. With 42 volunteer-run clubs across 5 regions, Special Olympics New Zealand supports more than 6,000 athletes to train, compete, and belong — creating healthier lives, stronger friendships, and more inclusive communities.

Pathways for Athletes

Every Special Olympics athlete follows a path that's unique to them. It often begins through school or community programmes that build confidence and skills, leading into club competition and events such as the National Summer Games. Some athletes take on leadership roles or mentor others — but for everyone, it's about participation, friendship, and lifelong involvement in sport.

Purpose: To enrich the lives of people with an intellectual disability through sport.

Vision: Lifelong participation in sport.

Values: Inclusion • Courage • Respect • Integrity • Excellence

We are Part of Something Special!

#SomethingSpecialNZ





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Media Assets

Media Asset link: nsg2025.co.nz/media

Contents:

- Special Olympics New Zealand and 2025 National Summer Games logos and brand guidelines
- High-resolution athlete and event photos with credit to Special Olympics New Zealand
- Pre-approved quotes
- Event schedule
- Social media tiles
- Text-to-Donate graphics

Story Starters

Theme

Athlete Voices

Suggestions

Local athletes preparing for Christchurch — journeys of determination, joy, and friendship.

Community Champions

Volunteers, coaches, and families making inclusion real in their communities.

Inclusive Pathways

How Special Olympics New Zealand supports athletes from pre-school through school and club programmes to national competition.

Law Enforcement Torch Run

New Zealand Police, athletes, and volunteers uniting to bring the Flame of Hope to Christchurch.

Partner Support

How sponsorship and collaboration are helping deliver New Zealand's largest inclusive sports event.

Key Messages

- The 2025 National Summer Games is **New Zealand's largest inclusive sports event** — a celebration of courage, respect, integrity, inclusion, and excellence.
- Athletes show courage and respect in every performance, supported by the community around them.
- Everyone is welcome — **all events are free to attend**.
- Be Part of Something Special — volunteer, cheer, donate, or share your story.
- Text **NOVUS to 3598 to donate** and support athletes and clubs nationwide.

Proud to Support Something Special!

#SomethingSpecialNZ





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Approved Quotes

Fran Scholey, Chief Executive, Special Olympics New Zealand

"Every National Summer Games is a moment to celebrate our athletes, but it's also a reminder of the work we do every day across Aotearoa. When people cheer, volunteer, or donate, they're helping us continue this mahi long after the Games end. Community support enables us to reach more athletes, strengthen our clubs, and ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate, belong, and be part of something truly special."

Liz Fitzgerald, Events Director, Special Olympics New Zealand

"There's a real sense of anticipation growing across the motu as we look forward to the journey to Christchurch. The National Summer Games only come around once every four years, and for many athletes it's the pinnacle of years of training and friendship. When the public comes along — to cheer, learn more, or experience the atmosphere — it means so much to all involved and the athletes. These Games shine a spotlight on inclusion, and we'd love people to be part of that by showing up, spreading the word, and celebrating what our athletes can achieve."

Freemasons New Zealand

"Freemasons New Zealand and The Freemasons Charity are proud to be part of something special as premier sponsor of the Special Olympics NZ 2025 National Summer Games — a celebration of inclusion, dedication, and community spirit. Our shared values make this partnership truly "special".

Mike James, Director, NOVUS Glass New Zealand

"At NOVUS Glass, we believe in supporting communities and helping people shine. Special Olympics athletes inspire us with their determination and joy, and we're proud to support the National Summer Games as Presenting Partner. This is the start of something special, and we're excited to back both the Games and the ongoing work of Special Olympics New Zealand."

Marks Mills, CEO, Miles Toyota

"The Special Olympics athletes embody determination and excellence in sport, and we're extremely proud to support these games," says Mark Mills, Miles Toyota CEO. "At its core, our Let's Go Places philosophy is about mobility for all - enabling movement in all its forms, whether physical, social, or emotional. By providing these vehicles, we're putting that philosophy into action and ensuring athletes, families, and coaches can focus on what truly matters - competing, connecting, and celebrating achievement."



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Rupert Friend, New Zealand Police

"We are proud to take part in the Law Enforcement Torch Run to help raise awareness and funds for the Special Olympics movement. The Torch Run has grown over the years and now includes many fundraising platforms including Polar Plunges. We held two plunges in Wellington and Christchurch this year where a total of \$26,000 was raised for our New Zealand athletes. The Law Enforcement Torch Run is a worldwide organisation and celebrated this year raising \$1 billion to support the athletes of Special Olympics. We encourage all kiwis to come out and show their support at Torch Run events up and down the country from October to December leading up to the games."

Contacts

Media Enquiries

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Contact: Coen Lammers, Media Manager, Special Olympics New Zealand

Media interviews can be available with athletes, volunteers, and event organisers by arrangement.

Social Media

Instagram: @specialolympicsnz

Facebook: Special Olympics New Zealand

LinkedIn: Special Olympics New Zealand

#SomethingSpecialNZ #SpecialOlympicsNZ #BePartOfSomethingSpecial #NSG2025

See you in Christchurch!

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