



# BIG 12 CONFERENCE NEWS

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## Big 12 to Enhance Partnership with Special Olympics

**IRVING, Texas** – The Big 12 Conference has announced plans to enhance its partnership with the Special Olympics organizations in each of the seven states in the league's geographic footprint.

Currently, the partnership includes public service announcements, sports clinics for Special Olympic athletes and coaches in conjunction with various Big 12 Championships, sport demonstrations during Big 12 events, inclusion in various Big 12 publications and an active interaction with the institutions' Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

In the coming years the conference will focus on providing additional activities, events, and exposure opportunities. The league will also look to build a stronger relationship between the Special Olympics and the SAAC with possible internship opportunities for Big 12 student-athletes at the various Special Olympics headquarters.

"We are excited about the enhancement of our existing partnership with Special Olympics," said Commissioner Dan Beebe. "This is a tremendous opportunity for our institutions and our student-athletes."

Throughout the seven conference member states, more than 73,000 athletes participate in a total of 28 Special Olympics sports, ranging from track and field to power lifting to team handball.

Special Olympics provide year-round sports training and athletics competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Through sports, these individuals develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence and a more positive self-image.