



General

Special Olympics New Zealand (SONZ) provides sports training and competition for people with Intellectual Disabilities, creating opportunities for athletes to develop physical fitness, grow their confidence, experience the joy of sport and participate in the sharing of skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Currently SONZ has 44 grassroots clubs and 1,587 volunteers, they currently support 5,199 athletes of all ages across the country across 13 sports disciplines.

Key Information

Hamilton is the host city for the 2021 National Summer Games (NSG)

Dates – 8-12th December 2021

Over 1750 athletes and coaches will be attending

Athletes will compete in 11 sports across 8 venues.

- Sports include athletics, basketball, bocce, bowling, equestrian, football, golf, indoor bowls, powerlifting, swimming and table tennis

Following a 4-year cycle similar to the Olympics and Paralympics the National Summer Games is SONZ's largest national event and one of New Zealand's largest multi-sport events.

The NSG provides athletes the opportunity to succeed in their sport, make lifelong connections, and raise their confidence and belief in their abilities.

For more information see the official [2021 National Summer Games website](#)

Volunteering

Up to 600 volunteers will be needed to cover 2000 shifts across 5 days of competition, health screenings and ceremonies. Roles will include general event volunteers, sports officials, marshals, health professionals, IT management and more.

Volunteer registrations opened on the 8th December at the National Summer Games One Year to Go celebration at the Hamilton Gardens. Individuals can register to volunteer at the [official 2021 National Summer Games website](#)

SONZ is offering special opportunities for organisations to volunteer as a team, for interested parties contact events@specialolympics.org.nz



Healthy Athletes Programme

At the 2021 National Summer Games SONZ are looking to provide over 5000 basic health screenings for the athletes across 5 disciplines (Dental, Optometry, Audio, Health Promotion and Podiatry). Clinicians that work on the Healthy Athletes Programme are trained specifically to work with people with intellectual disabilities.

People with intellectual disabilities are one of the most medically underserved populations due to a number of reasons including, inadequate provider training and inaccessible facilities, people with intellectual disabilities have less access to quality health care.

As a result, people with intellectual disabilities experience dramatically higher rates of preventable disease, chronic pain and suffering, and premature death.

See more information on the [Healthy Athletes program at the 2021 NSG](#)