

Sports for Growth



Are you interested in attracting new athletes and volunteers from diverse cultural and/or First Nations, Métis or Inuit Backgrounds? Then here are some sports that may help you do that based on the most popular sports from Canada's top 3 source countries for immigration, as well as sports that are played at the North American Indigenous Games.

If you're doing outreach to one of the cultural communities listed, consider profiling one or more of the sports below.

Top 3 Source Countries for Immigration to Canada (2016-2021) ¹

1. India
2. Philippines
3. People's Republic of China

Growth Rate²

Percentage Growth (2016-2021)

Canadian Indigenous ³ Population	9.4%
Non-Indigenous Population	5.3%

Most Popular Sports of Special Olympics India (Bharat)

Rank	Sport	Sport of Special Olympics Canada and/or Special Olympics International
1.	Athletics	SOC & SOI
2.	Bocce	SOI
3.	Cricket	
4.	Soccer	SOC & SOI
5.	Kabaddi ⁴	

Other SOC sports played in SO India: basketball, floor hockey, aquatics, softball, powerlifting, snow shoeing, alpine skiing, figure skating, speed skating and golf.

Most Popular Sports of Special Olympics Philippines

Rank	Sport	Sport of Special Olympics Canada (SOC) and/or Special Olympics International (SOI)
1.	Athletics	SOC & SOI
2.	Bocce	SOC & SOI
3.	Bowling	SOC & SOI
4.	Basketball	SOC & SOI
5.	Soccer	SOC & SOI*

Other SOC sports played in SO Philippines: SO Philippines: aquatics, rhythmic gymnastics and powerlifting.

Did you know that 2 sources fueling population growth in Canada are immigration and a high growth rate among Canada's Indigenous population?



Top 3 Source Countries for Immigration to Canada: India, Philippines and the People's Republic of China



Most Popular Sports of Special Olympics China

Rank	Sport	Sport of Special Olympics Canada and/or Special Olympics International
1.	Athletics	SOC & SOI
2.	Table Tennis	SOI
3.	Basketball	SOC & SOI
4.	Soccer	SOC & SOI
5.	Badminton	SOI

Other SOC sports played in SO China: aquatics, bocce, bowling, powerlifting, artistic gymnastics, snowshoeing, floor hockey, speed skating, softball, golf, cross-country skiing, figure skating and alpine skiing

Sports at the North American Indigenous Games 2023

Sport	Sport of Special Olympics Canada and/or Special Olympics International
Archery	Prohibited Sport - SOI General Rules Section 7.04(i)
Athletics	SOC & SOI
Badminton	
Baseball	Softball – SOC & SOI
Basketball	SOC & SOI
Beach Volleyball	SOI
Canoeing	
Golf	SOC & SOI
Kayaking	
Lacrosse	
Riflery	Prohibited Sport - SOI General Rules Section 7.04(i)
Soccer	SOC & SOI
Softball	SOC & SOI
Swimming	SOC & SOI
Volleyball	SOI
Wrestling	Prohibited Sport - SOI General Rules Section 7.04(i)

Canada's Indigenous population is growing almost two times faster than the non-Indigenous population

For more information, please refer to the source document, "Sports of Possible Special Interest For Particular Communities: Chinese, Indian, Filipino and First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit Backgrounds", by contacting info@specialolympics.ca

¹Statistics Canada, Facts and figures, 2013 – Immigration overview: Permanent Residents, Canada – Permanent residents by source country, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2013/permanent/10.asp>

²Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey (NHS). <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/as-sa/99-011-x/99-011-x2011001-eng.cfm>

³The Aboriginal peoples of Canada, as defined by the Constitution Act, 1982, comprise the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/as-sa/99-011-x/99-011-x2011001-eng.cfm>

⁴Kabaddi is a contact sport that originated in Ancient India. Kabaddi is an umbrella term that encompasses various forms of the game.

