

DYNAMIC WARM-UP GUIDE



SWIMMING

**Special
Olympics**





Special Olympics **Health**

MADE
POSSIBLE BY **Golisano** FOUNDATION

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Warm-Up Directions

A warm-up should be the first physical activity in every training session or competition. A good warm-up helps you to reach a state of physical and mental readiness.

A proper warm-up should include:

- Aerobic activity
- Dynamic stretching

After you complete the aerobic activity, you will want to dynamic stretch. Stretching for flexibility is very effective in the cool-down.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

- Try to do about **15-20 repetitions** of each exercise.
- Many of these stretches can be **done in place or across the playing area.**
- Select a few that **focus on different muscles.**



Sample Warm-Up

AEROBIC ACTIVITIES

Aerobic activities are whole body movements should last about 5 minutes and increase the heart rate. Select a few exercises from the list below:

- March in Place
- Quick Punches
- Slow Laps in Pool

DYNAMIC STRETCHES

Dynamic stretches consist of active, controlled movements that take body parts through a full range of motion. If you don't have enough time, select a few that focus on the different muscles used in your sport:

- Arm Circles
- Arm Swings
- Torso Twists
- Windmill Toe Touches

NOTE: Be careful warming up on the pool deck as it might be slippery.



Forward Lunges

DIRECTIONS

- Stand with your feet shoulder width apart and put your hands on your hips.
- Take a big step forward with your right foot and bend both knees so that your left knee is almost touching the ground.
- Push off your left leg and return to the starting position. Repeat with your left leg forward.



March in Place

DIRECTIONS

- Walk in place. Lift your knees up as high as you can. Go at a steady pace.
- As you bring your knee up, swing the opposite arm in front of you.
- Switch your arms when you switch your legs.



Quick Punches

DIRECTIONS

- Put both your hands in fists by your chest. Keep your elbows down by your side. Stand with your feet a little wider than your shoulders. Bend your knees slightly.
- Turn toward your left side. Punch your right arm in that direction.
- Return to the center with both hands in fists by your chest and elbows down by your side.
- Now, turn toward your right side. Punch your left arm in that direction.



Arm Circles

DIRECTIONS

- Stand tall with your arms straight down. Slowly make large circles with your arms in the forward direction.
- Repeat exercises in the backward direction.



Arm Swings

DIRECTIONS

- Start in a standing position with your feet apart and stretch your arms out to the sides making a “T” shape.
- Cross your arms in the front of the body and reach as far back as possible to touch your shoulders or back.
- Uncross your arms and return to your starting position.



Torso Twists



DIRECTIONS

- Start in a standing position with your feet apart.
- Stretch your arms out to the sides making a “T” shape.
- While keeping your arms out straight and your hips facing forward, turn your upper body and head slowly to one side, return to center, then turn to the other side.



Windmill Toe Touches

DIRECTIONS

- Start in a standing position with your feet apart and stretch your arms out to the sides making a “T” shape.
- Reach one hand across your body and tap the outside of the opposite foot. Keep your arms and legs as straight as possible.
- Return to the upright starting position with arms out to sides. Reach your other hand across and tap the outside of the opposite foot.



Benefits of a Warm-Up

A warm-up should be the first physical activity in every training session or competition. A good warm-up helps you to **reach a state of physical and mental readiness.**

Physical and Mental Benefits

- Increase heart rate
- Increase breathing rate
- Increase body and muscle temperature
- Greater blood flow to the active muscles
- Shift focus from life to sport
- Connects the mind and the body

