



Special Olympics GB outlines new concept for

2026



2026

National

Summer

Games



The Board of Trustees of



Special Olympics GB



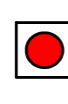
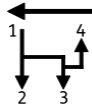
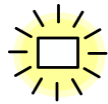
has



approved



plans



2026

to hold a newly structured National Summer Games in 2026,



which



could



provide



competition



opportunities



for around

1,700



children



and



adults



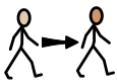
with



an intellectual



disability.



Following



consultation



with

the











Special Olympics GB

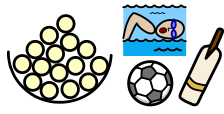


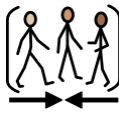


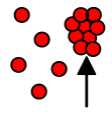


network,

the


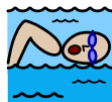
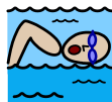
 Athlete
  Leadership
  Team
  and
  National
  Sports
  Advisors,
  a concept



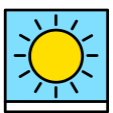


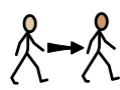
 has been
  approved
  for the event,
  consisting of:

•  Multi-sport
  (four-five
  days)
  event
  at
  a single
  cluster of

 venues/location,
  prioritising
  Special Olympics
  GB's
  most popular

 participation
  sports.
  These
  are:
  Athletics,
  Boccia,
  Football,
  Artistic

 Gymnastics,
  MATP,
  Swimming

•  Single-sport
  (one-two
  day)
  national
  competitions,
  following the

 successful
  2022
  Summer Series of Sport
  model, hosted
  in
  different



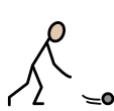
locations for:



Badminton,



Basketball,



Bowls,



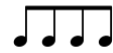
Cycling,



Equestrian,



Golf,



Rhythmic



Gymnastics,



Table Tennis,



Tennis



Competitions

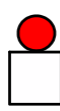


may

be



expanded



on



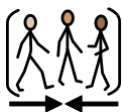
current



national



single-sport



events



Special Olympics GB's



National



Office

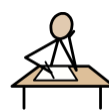


team

is



now



working



with



many



venues,



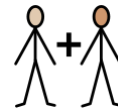
local



stakeholders



and



partners



to identify

the



most



appropriate



place

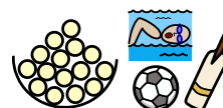


and

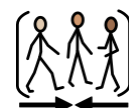


dates

for the



multi-sport




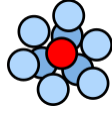


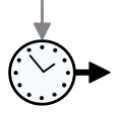


event.



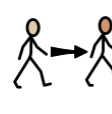

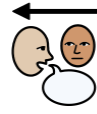







 "The National Summer Games has been an important topic of








 interest among our membership since our return to


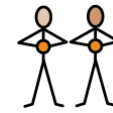

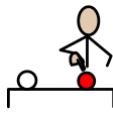
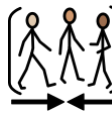
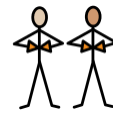



 2022
 



 competition in 2022, following the pandemic," said Laura Baxter


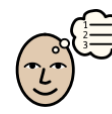
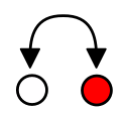


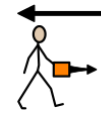



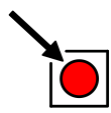
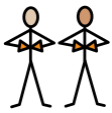

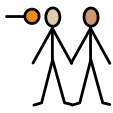







 MBE, Chief Executive of Special Olympics GB. "We recognise the








 passion of our membership for this event so we had







 a consultation process, which the majority of clubs took


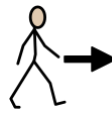








 part in. We've listened to their feedback and ambitions




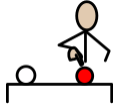
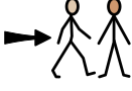






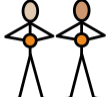






 for this event and are delighted to now have a concept to





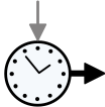

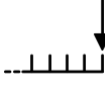



 take forward.







 "Not
  only
  does
  this
  approach
  provide
  competitive
  sporting


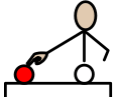
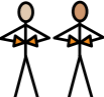




 opportunities
 for a
  huge
  number
 of
  our
  athletes, but it is

 also
  consistent
 with
  the
  financial
  sustainability
 of
  our







 movement.




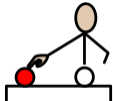
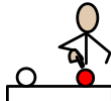
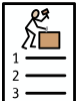


 "The world
  has
  changed
 a
  lot
  since
  our
  last
  major








 National
  Summer
  Games,
 in
  Sheffield
 in
  2017
  and it is

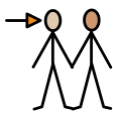

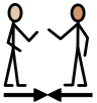

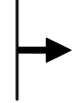

 important
  that
  we
  consider
 the
  increased
  cost
 of
  events.

 Borrowing
 or
  taking
  financial
  risks
 on
  behalf
 of

 Special Olympics GB
 is
  not
  something
  we
  can
  consider.









 However, we believe that this plan can change the








 lives of many people with an intellectual disability, giving

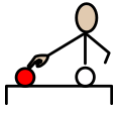
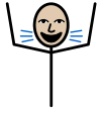

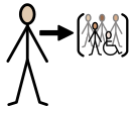
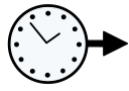








 them an opportunity to meet fellow athletes from around








 Great Britain, make new friends and be part of an event






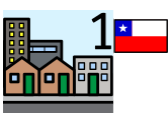








 that's celebrates their participation. It will also provide a





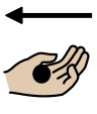








 pathway for our athletes to qualify for selection for the 2027



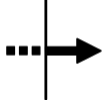










 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Santiago, Chile.



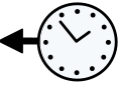



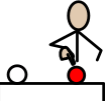



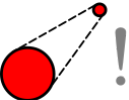

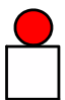




 "We have already had positive discussions with venues and






 potential
  partners
  regarding
  our
  primary
  multi-sport
  event.

 Discussions
 are
  also
  continuing
 with
  our
  National
  Sports



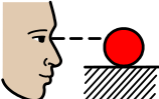

 Advisors,
  who
  have
  played
 an
  important
  part
 in
  this

 process."

 Further
  details
 on
  the
  date
 and
  location
 of the
 2026

 National
  Summer
  Games
 will
 be
  confirmed
 in
  winter
 2025

2026
 / 2026.

 In
 the
  meantime,
 please
  look at
 our
  Frequently Asked Questions



for

more



information.