
Beach Olympics

Level

Any

Key question

Which team is best in the beach Olympics?

Key Outcome

Have fun in a simple competition.

What you need

Several teams of even numbers, appropriately dressed or labelled

One can of oil sardines for each team

A dinner plate for each team

Three sets of swimming fins (to fit team)

Large plastic bags cut into long streamers

Ping-pong balls and neo pens

A snorkel mask, glass of water, and mussel shell for each team

Whistle, obstacles and suitable flat site (can be indoors, grass or firm sand)

What you do

Students are divided into teams, with appropriate dress or identifying labels, possibly a team flag. Teams assemble at one end of the site, with the relevant equipment placed in front of them. Winner of each event is noted on board or paper, and winning team eventually parades as winners of the 'Olympics'.

Event 1. Sardine pack

Each team has an open empty sardine tin on a chair or ground in front of it. The sardines are placed on a plate. On the whistle, each team member attempts in turn to replace one sardine back into the tin in a whole state. The winner is the first team to get all the sardines back in the tin.

Provide paper towel to clean up!

Event 2. Sardine toss

One team member attempts to throw a sardine the longest distance. Best of three tries each wins.

Event 3. Fin walk

Three members of each team line up wearing pairs of fins. Each attempts in turn to travel around the course over obstacles (tree trunks, low walls, sand dune, bench, etc) to beginning. Fastest team of all three completing the course wins.

Adapted from ideas provided by Jan Thornton, Sea World, and Jan Oliver, Queensland Department of Environment.

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Event 4. Sea snake

Each team is provided with three long streamers, at least 5 cm across and 1 m long, cut from large garbage bags. Streamers are stapled together at top. The first team (individual or a number) to plait the streamers wins.

Event 5. Seahorse race

Each team draws a seahorse on a ping pong ball before the race. On whistle, one member blows the ball along the ground to the finishing line without using any hands.

Event 6. Mask cleaning

A glass of water and one shell (e.g. half a mussel shell) is placed in front of each team. At the end of the course a dive mask is placed, glass down in front of each team.

Each member in turn transfers water in the shell from the glass into the mask to clean it, carrying the shell to the mask. When all have had one turn, the water in the mask is tipped back into the glass. The team with the most water in its glass wins.

Conclusion

Before the march past, ensure that the area is tidy and all rubbish, sardines, etc, has been removed!

Prizes can be 'ribbons' or 'medals' of cardboard or plastic.