



MISSION:

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with an intellectual disability, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

HISTORY:

Founded in 1995

PARTICIPANTS (per the 2016 census):

Registered Athletes and Unified Partners:	5,016
Coaches:	218
Competition opportunities:	80

GOAL:

To reach 5,400 athletes and participants by the end of 2016

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

- 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Los Angeles, USA (10 athletes)
- 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece
- 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China
- 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Dublin, Ireland
- 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games in North Carolina, USA (9 athletes)
- 1997 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Canada
- 1995 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Connecticut, USA (5 athletes)

REGIONAL EVENTS:

- 1st MENA Regional Games in Cairo, Egypt, 1999
- 2nd MENA Regional Games in Rabat, Morocco, 2000
- 3rd MENA Regional Games in Beirut, Lebanon, 2002
- 4th MENA Regional Games in Tunis, Tunisia, 2004
- 5th MENA Regional Games in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2006
- 6th MENA Regional Games in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 2008
- 7th MENA Regional Games in Damascus, Syria, 2010

13 OFFICIAL SPORTS:

Aquatics	Athletics	Badminton	Basketball
Bocce	Cycling	Equestrian	Floor Hockey
Football (Soccer)	Handball	Power Lifting	Snowshoeing
Table Tennis			

OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:

Athlete Leadership, Young Athletes

EXECUTIVE STAFF:

Dr. Yousef Shehada, Executive Director, Gaza

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