

**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 1975

**PARTICIPANTS (per the 2014 census):**

Registered athletes:	33,002
Coaches:	13,685
Competitions:	147

**SUPPORT:**

Recipient of government, corporate and individual funding

**INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:**

- 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Los Angeles, USA
- 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games, PyeongChang, South Korea
- 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Athens, Greece

**18 OFFICIAL SPORTS:**

Aquatics	Athletics	Basketball	Bocce
Bowling	Cross Country Skiing	Cycling	Equestrian
Figure Skating	Football (Soccer)	Golf	Gymnastics (Artistic)
Gymnastics (Rhythmic)	Roller Skating	Short Track Speed Skating	Softball
Tennis	Volleyball		

**OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:**

Athlete Leadership, Healthy Athletes, Healthy Communities, Young Athletes Program, Project UNIFY, Special Olympics Unified Sports, and Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR)

**EXECUTIVE STAFF:**

Mr. Steve Pleasnick, Board Chair

Mr. Bob Rickard, CEO

[rwrsooh@aol.com](mailto:rwrsooh@aol.com)

Mr. Mike Laage, Athlete Representative on the Board of Directors

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