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 1993

PARTICIPANTS (per the 2019 census):
Registered athletes and Unified partners: 27,357
Coaches: 3,542
Competitions: 737

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:
• 2019, Special Olympics, World Summer Games, Abu Dhabi, (65 athletes and partners)
• 2017, Special Olympics World Winter Games, Graz-schladming-Ramsau, Austria (25 athletes)
• 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Los Angeles, USA (64 athletes)
• 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games, PyeongChang, South Korea (21 athletes)
• 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Athens, Greece (86 athletes)
• 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Nagano, Japan (24 athletes)
• 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Shanghai, China (62 athlete)

26 OFFICIAL SPORTS:

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OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:
Athlete Leadership, Young Athletes, Healthy Athletes, Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR), Unified Sports, MATP, Healthy Communities

EXECUTIVE STAFF:
Mr. Ruud Verbunt, Board Chair
Mr. Matthijs van Doorn, Chair Athlete Committee
Ms. Ragna Schapendonk, National Director r.schapendonk@specialolympics.nl

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