



**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 1968

**PARTICIPANTS (per the 2021 census):**

Registered Athletes and Unified Partners: 4,115  
 Coaches: 726  
 Competitions: 23

**SUPPORT:**

Recipient of government, corporate and individual funding

**INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:**

- 2019 Special Olympics World Games, Abu Dhabi
- 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Austria
- 2015 Special Olympics World Games, Los Angeles, USA
- 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Pyeongchang, South Korea
- 2011 Special Olympics World Games, Athens, Greece

**23 OFFICIAL SPORTS:**

Alpine Skiing	Aquatics (Swimming)	Athletics (Track & Field)	Basketball
Bocce	Bowling	Cheerleading (Dance)	Cross Country Skiing
Cycling	Development Events	Equestrian	Figure Skating
Flag Football	Football (Soccer)	Golf	Gymnastics
Powerlifting	Pickle Ball	Snowshoeing	Speed Skating
Softball	Tennis	Volleyball	

**OTHER PROGRAMS:**

Athlete Leadership, Health Messenger training, Healthy Athletes, Young Athletes Program, Unified Champion Schools®, Special Olympics Unified Sports®, Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR), Motor Activities Training Program (MATP), Fitness Programming

**EXECUTIVE STAFF:**

Tom Cunningham, Board Chair  
 Mr. John Kliegl, President and CEO  
 Patrick Gulbranson, Athlete Representative on the Board of Directors

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**SPECIAL OLYMPICS IOWA**

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