

**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 1970

PARTICIPANTS (per the 2025 census):

Registered Athletes and Unified Partners:	31,971
Coaches:	2,291
Competitions:	196
Volunteers:	14,822

SUPPORT:

Recipient of government, corporate and individual funding

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

- 2025 Special Olympics World Games, Turin, Italy
- 2023 Special Olympics World Games, Berlin, Germany
- 2019 Special Olympics World Games, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Graz, 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	Athletics	Baseball	Basketball
Bocce	Bowling	Cross Country Skiing	Cycling
Equestrian	Figure Skating	Floor Hockey	Football (Soccer)
Golf	Gymnastics, Artistic	Powerlifting	Sailing
Short Track Speed Skating	Snowboarding	Snowshoeing	Softball
Swimming	Tennis	Volleyball	

OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:

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

EXECUTIVE STAFF:

Ms. Heather B. Andersen, President and CEO
Mr. Matthew B. McDonald III, MD, Chairperson

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SPECIAL OLYMPICS PROGRAM

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