

**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:**

Special Olympics North Carolina sent six athletes to the first Special Olympics International Games in 1968. The first competition held in North Carolina took place in 1970.

**PARTICIPANTS (per the 2023 census):**

Registered Athletes and Unified Partners:	34,387
Coaches:	2,326
Competitions:	525
Volunteers:	41,024

**SUPPORT:**

Recipient of foundations, corporate and individual funding

**INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:**

- 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

**19 OFFICIAL SPORTS:**

Alpine skiing	Athletics	Basketball	Bocce
Bowling	Cycling	Equestrian	Figure Skating
Football (Soccer)	Golf	Gymnastics, Artistic	Powerlifting
Roller Skating	Short Track Speed Skating	Snowboarding	Softball
Swimming	Tennis	Volleyball	

**OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:**

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

**EXECUTIVE STAFF:**

Mr. Ken Smith, Board Chair  
Mr. Keith L Fishburne, President and CEO

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