



**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 the late 1970s

**PARTICIPANTS (per the 2017 census):**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Registered Athletes and Unified Partners: | 182 |
| Coaches:                                  | 24  |
| Competitions:                             | 6   |

**SUPPORT:**

Recipient of government, corporate and individual funding

**INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:**

- 2019 Special Olympics World Games, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2015 Special Olympics World Games, Los Angeles, USA (22 athletes)
- 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea)
- 2011 Special Olympics World Games in Athens, Greece

**6 OFFICIAL SPORTS:**

|                     |                       |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Aquatics (Swimming) | Athletics             | Bocce                 |
| Football (Soccer)   | Gymnastics (Artistic) | Gymnastics (Rhythmic) |

**OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:**

Athlete Leadership, Healthy Athletes, Young Athletes

**EXECUTIVE STAFF:**

Mr. Edward Gessel, Board Chair  
 Mr. Frank Cameron, National Director

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**SPECIAL OLYMPICS SURINAME**

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