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 1975

PARTICIPANTS (per the 2019 census):
Registered Athletes and Unified Partners: 22,982
Coaches: 1,591
Competitions: 2,500

SUPPORT:
Recipient of government, corporate and individual funding

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:
• 2019 Special Olympics World Games, Abu Dhabi, UAE
• 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Graz, Austria
• 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Schladming, 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:

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<th>Athletics</th>
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<td>Gymnastics</td>
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OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:
Athlete Leadership, Global Messengers, Healthy Athletes, Young Athletes, Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools®, Special Olympics Unified Sports®, Polar Plunge, Plane Pull and Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR)

EXECUTIVE STAFF:
Dr. Chester H. Sharps, Board Chair
Mr. Rick Jeffrey, President
Ms. Chelsea Gaughran, Athlete Representative on the Board of Directors

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