

**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 2023 census):

Registered Athletes and Unified Partners:	19,491
Coaches:	5,098
Competitions:	166
Volunteers:	8,410

SUPPORT:

Recipient of government, 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
- 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

19 OFFICIAL SPORTS:

Alpine Skiing	Athletics	Basketball	Bocce
Bowling	Cheerleading	Cross Country Skiing	Cycling
Flag Football	Football (Soccer)	Golf	Gymnastics, Artistic
Powerlifting	Roller Skating	Short Track Speed Skating	Softball
Swimming	Tennis	Volleyball	

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), Fitness, Special Olympics eSports.

EXECUTIVE STAFF:

Dr. Joy Cavagnaro, Board Chair

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Ms. Chelsea Gaughran, Athlete Representative on the Board of Directors

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