Special Olympics
Great Britain

GREAT BRITAIN FACT SHEET

Special Olympics Great Britain | Europe Eurasia

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 1978

PARTICIPATION (PER THE 2025 CENSUS):

Registered Athletes/Unified Partners:	18,684
Coaches:	6,864
Competitions in 2025:	111

SPORTS (PER THE 2025 CENSUS):

Alpine Skiing	Athletics	Badminton
Basketball	Bocce	Boccia
Bowling	Cricket	Cycling
Equestrian	Figure Skating	Football (Soccer)
Golf	Gymnastics, Artistic	Gymnastics, Rhythmic
Hockey	Indoor Bowls	Judo
Kayaking	Netball	New Age Kurling
Power Lifting	Sailing	Swimming
Table Tennis	Tennis	Topgolf
Triathlon		

OTHER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES:

- Athlete Leadership
- Healthy Athletes
- Motor Activities Training Program (MATP)
- Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools®
- Special Olympics Unified Sports®
- Young Athletes

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

- 2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Turin, Italy
- 2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Berlin, Germany
- 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Graz & Schladming, Austria
- 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Los Angeles, USA
- 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games, PyeongChang, South Korea
- 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Athens, Greece
- 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Boise, USA
- 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Shanghai, China
- 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Nagano, Japan
- 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Dublin, Ireland
- 2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Anchorage, USA
- 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games, North Carolina, USA

EXECUTIVE STAFF:

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