

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES FACT SHEET

Special Olympics United Arab Emirates | Middle East/North Africa

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 1990

PARTICIPATION (PER THE 2025 CENSUS):

Registered Athletes/Unified Partners:	5,854
Coaches:	702
Competitions in 2025:	185

SPORTS (PER THE 2025 CENSUS):

Athletics	Badminton	Basketball
Beach Volleyball	Bocce	Bowling
Cross Country Skiing	Cycling	Dance
Equestrian	Esports	Figure Skating
Floorball	Football (Soccer)	Futsal
Golf	Gymnastics, Artistic	Gymnastics, Rhythmic
Handball	Judo	Padel
Power Lifting	Roller Skating	Sailing
Short Track Speed Skating	Snowboarding	Snowshoeing
Speedball	Swimming	Table Tennis
Tennis	Triathlon	Volleyball
Walking		

OTHER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES:

- Athlete Leadership
- Healthy Athletes
- Motor Activities Training Program (MATP)
- Special Olympics eSports
- 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
- 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Shanghai, China
- 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Dublin, Ireland
- 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games, North Carolina, USA

EXECUTIVE STAFF:

Ameera Abdulaziz

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Chairman

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SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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