ILLINOIS FACT SHEET

Special Olympics Illinois | North America

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 1968

PARTICIPATION (PER THE 2025 CENSUS):

Registered Athletes/Unified Partners:	18,974
Coaches:	11,423
Competitions in 2025:	197

SPORTS (PER THE 2025 CENSUS):

Alpine Skiing	Athletics	Basketball
Bocce	Bowling	Corn Hole/Toss
Dance	Equestrian	Flag Football
Floor Hockey	Football (Soccer)	Golf
Gymnastics, Artistic	Gymnastics, Rhythmic	Power Lifting
Snowshoeing	Softball	Swimming
Tennis	Volleyball	

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 (TEAM USA):

- 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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