Special Olympics
Southern California

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FACT SHEET

Special Olympics Southern California | 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 1969

## PARTICIPATION (PER THE 2025 CENSUS):

| | |
|---|---|
| **Registered Athletes/Unified Partners:** | 11,392 |
| **Coaches:** | 1,255 |
| **Competitions in 2025:** | 63 |

## SPORTS (PER THE 2025 CENSUS):

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Athletics | Basketball | Bocce |
| Bowling | Flag Football | Floorball |
| Football (Soccer) | Golf | Softball |
| Swimming | Tennis | Volleyball |

## 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 (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:

**Ashton Edwards**

**VP, Programs Melissa Erdmann**

**Melissa Erdmann**

**Ms. Kelly Pond**
*President & CEO*

**Janet Rose**
*Vice President, CFO*

**Mr. Richard Van KIrk**
*New in 2025 Board Chair*


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