



General

Our Vision: People with intellectual disabilities in New Zealand are valued.

Our Purpose: To enrich the lives of people with intellectual disabilities through sport.

We provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics New Zealand athletes and the community.

Our Solution:

- **REAL SPORTS:** Deliver, high-quality training and competition in an inclusive culture that stresses athletic excellence, rewards determination, emphasizes health and celebrates personal achievement.
- **ATHLETE HEALTH:** Promote the overall well-being of people with intellectual disabilities via programs that ensure ongoing access to quality, community-based healthcare services, highlighted by free health screenings at Special Olympics New Zealand competitions, games and other venues.
- **BUILD COMMUNITIES:** Marshal resources, implement diverse programming and act as a convening power of stakeholders to drive positive attitudinal and behavioral change toward people with intellectual disabilities in communities.

Statistics and Numbers - 2019

Clubs - **44**

Athletes - **5,199**

Volunteers - **1,587 (Coaches, 1,023)**

Competitions held in 2019 – **171**

Special Olympics International research and evaluation has shown that the movement has made a significant impact on its athletes, the families of athletes, and the community at large.

Major research findings by Special Olympics International:

- While most people with intellectual disabilities (85%) are only mildly impaired, the public overestimates the severity of their disability.



- More than 2/3 of people feel those with intellectual disability receive the same or better health care than others. In fact, they often receive substandard care or no care at all.
- Nearly all Special Olympics athletes (more than 90%) from all countries studied benefited from increased self-esteem and self-confidence after participating.
- A recent study found that 44% of adults with ID who were present or past Special Olympics athletes were employed, compared with only 28% of adults with ID who have never experienced Special Olympics. Children participating in Young Athletes showed significant improvement in their motor skills and some a 7-month gain after only 2.3 months of participation.
- Participation in Unified Sports leads to greater understanding and acceptance among a large majority (82%) of participants without disabilities.