

# FINAL REPORT

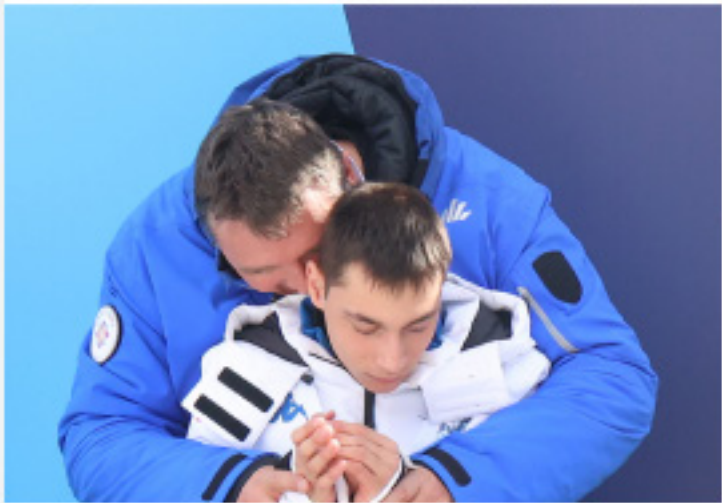


SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**WORLD  
WINTER  
GAMES**  
TURIN 2025





Creating an inclusive world



“ It was once thought that people with intellectual disabilities could not follow rules, could not understand the meaning of a competition, and were too uncoordinated to compete successfully; but today we know that this is not the case. ”

*Eunice Kennedy Shriver* Founder of Special Olympics



**Special Olympics** is a global sports movement of people creating a new world of inclusion and community, where every single person is accepted and welcomed, regardless of ability or disability.

We are helping to make the world a better, healthier and more joyful place.

One athlete, one volunteer, one family member at a time.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS around the world



**4.238.388** Total Participants  
Athletes, Youth Athletes, MATP & Unified Partners

**256** Programs

**53.779** Competitions

**207** Countries

**26.100** Teams



**777.670** Volunteers

Special Olympics Italia, recognised as a Meritorious Association by CONI and CIP, has been active since **1983** and operates in all regions through Special Olympics Teams.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS in Italy



**12.059** Athletes & Unified Partners



**4.051**  
Family Members

**270** Competitions  
in a sporting year



**2.893** Coaches

**1.513** Managers



**4.269** Volunteers

“ For us at Special Olympics Italia, having our country awarded the organization of the 2025 World Winter Games in Turin represents the pinnacle of work carried out on a daily basis for more than forty years. ”

*Angelo Moratti* President of Special Olympics Italia



**1983**

Special Olympics Italy is officially recognised by Special Olympics International as a separate entity from FISHa with the duty to spread the word and the mission of Special Olympics

**1986**

The first Special Olympics National Summer Games take place in Potenza, Basilicata, with 150 athletes from 17 sports associations

**1989**

The first Special Olympics National Winter Games take place in Belluno, Veneto

**2002**

Serena Silvi, gymnastics athlete, becomes a Sargent Shriver Global Messenger, representing Special Olympics athletes worldwide for two years: She is the first Italian to have ever been awarded as a Global Messenger



**MILESTONES**

**2006**

The Special Olympics European Youth Games Rome 2006 take place: It is the first time that Italy officially hosts an edition of the European Youth Games

**2007**

On the occasion of the International Day of People with Disabilities, President of the Italian Republic Giorgio Napolitano meets the Italian delegation that took part in the World Summer Games in Shanghai.

**2015**

First-ever private audience with the Holy Father in the Clementine Hall of the Vatican City for the Italian delegation departing for the World Summer Games in Los Angeles

**2025**

The Special Olympics World Winter Games Turin 2025 take place: It is the first time that Italy officially hosts an edition of the World Games



# The Games

“  
Impossible is nothing.  
Whatever you put your heart to, whatever you put  
your mind to. You don't have to exclude anyone  
just because you think that they're different.

*Seun Adigun Global Ambassador*

WATCH IT  
NOW!





SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**WORLD  
WINTER  
GAMES**  
TURIN 2025

*The Future is Here*

## Participants

Over

**1,500**

Athletes & Unified partners

More than

**100,000**

Spectators



**100**

Countries

More than

**1,000**

Coaches & Delegates

**2,000**

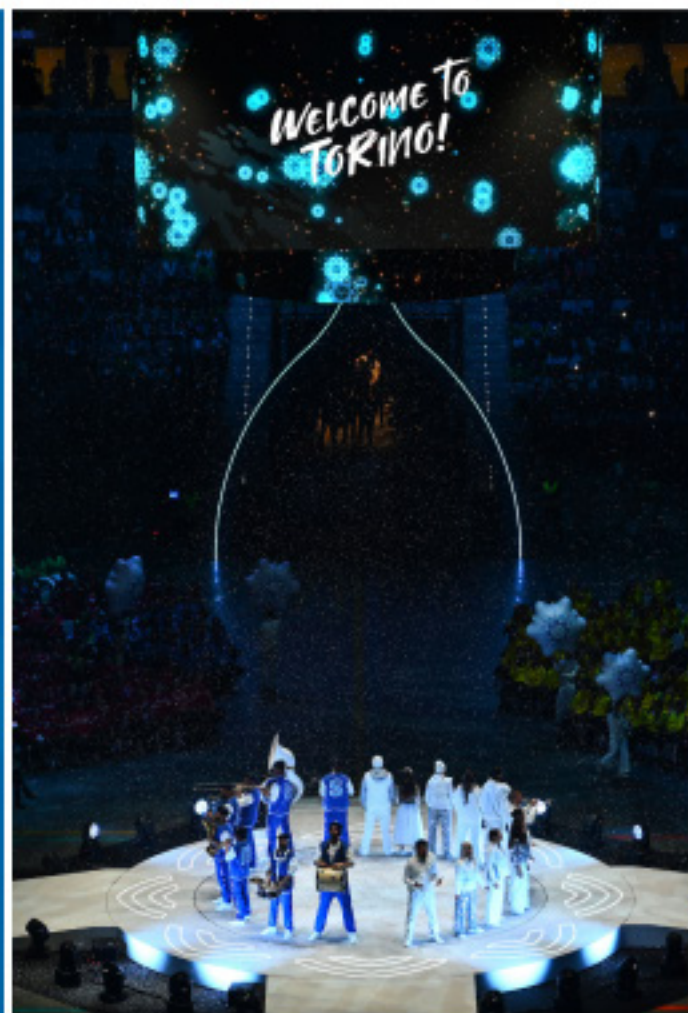
Volunteers

**3,000**

Family members

**500**

Accredited Media  
Representatives



## MISSION

An immediate revolution in the perspective that people of all abilities deserve, at every level, lasting inclusion and the opportunity to express and achieve their full potential.



## SPIRIT

Thanks to Italy's hospitality, warmth, joy and passion, the games were an opportunity to celebrate inclusive sport, joy and humanity.

## VISION

A fully inclusive world in which sport unites people with intellectual disabilities and affirms their fundamental rights to sport, education, culture, health and a full life.



## Logo Rationale

Special Olympics Athletes who practice skiing leave their mark in their competitive sport.

Their journey is one of skill and effort, courage and determination.

It is a journey to be admired.



The ski trails join to define the iconic silhouette of the Mole Antonelliana, which, as it repeats itself, in turn reveals the peaks of the Alps.

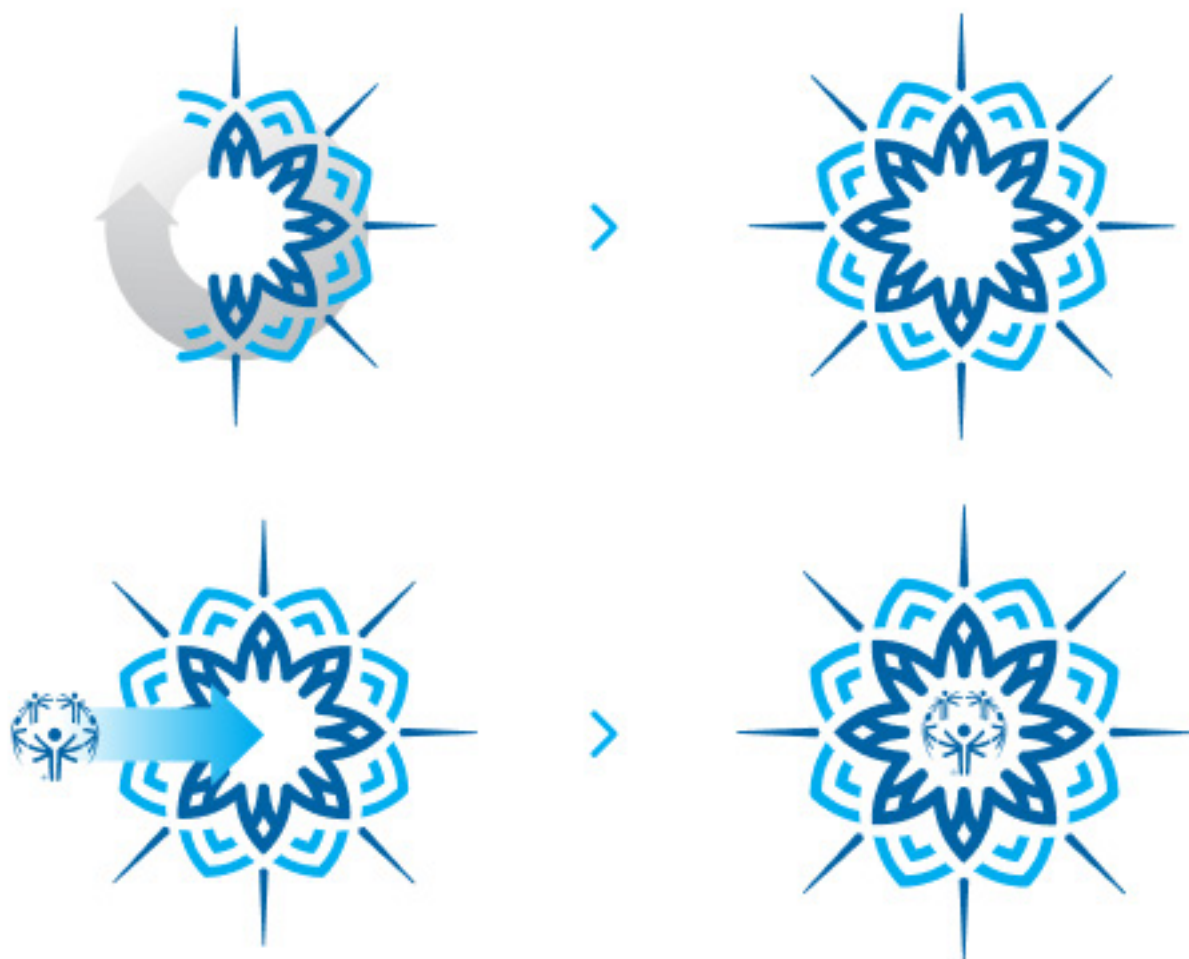


## Logo Rationale / 2

The 360-degree rotation generates a snowflake, in the center of which the Special Olympics logo is inserted.

The final composition is the Special Olympics logo embraced by a design that represents sport, with the marks left by the skier.

The Mole Antonelliana, the Alps, and the snowflake represent the welcome that athletes will receive at the Games.



# MOLY



## The Mascot

The mascot of the Special Olympics Turin 2025 World Winter Games is **Moly**, an irresistibly charming otter wearing a hat shaped like the Mole Antonelliana, making it instantly recognizable and deeply connected to the city of Turin.

This unique symbol is the brainchild of Italian students who took part in the 2024 **"ScuolArteSpeciale"** competition, which involved **2,564 school students from all over Italy**.

The otter is not only a symbol of the Games, but also a messenger of a better future.

With its infectious smile, iconic hat, and the enthusiasm of the young people who created it, it represents joy, inclusion, and cultural change.



## Press Conference in Turin



WATCH IT  
NOW!



I have been an athlete for many years, and I am also a person with a disability. "Also" is the appropriate term, as disability is not the only aspect of a person, but rather a face of a diamond shining with countless colours.

*Lorenzo Mancino* Special Olympics Italy Athlete





Because we grow together only  
when no one is left behind.

*Alessandra Locatelli*  
Italian Minister for disabilities

## The Journeys Begin



This year's message: **"The Future is Here"** resonates deeply with athletes, coaches, and supporters, focusing on fostering a future where inclusion and community are at the forefront.

WATCH IT  
NOW!



IT MEANS  
A LOT!





IGNITING THE SPIRIT



# Torch Lighting in Athens



The Special Olympics Flame of Hope marked the beginning of its journey to the Special Olympics World Winter Games Turin 2025

DO YOU WANT TO  
**KNOW MORE?**





## Torch Run



The torch carries the "**Flame of Hope**", which symbolizes the positive values of the Special Olympics movement, including unity, acceptance, and inclusion.

The **Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR)** began in 1981 in Wichita, Kansas, when Police Chief Richard LaMunyon sought a way to increase awareness and raise funds for the Special Olympics.

Today, the LETR involves more than 100,000 law enforcement volunteers in over 100 countries.

WATCH THE  
HIGHLIGHTS!





# Timeline





# The Opening Ceremony

WATCH IT  
NOW!



The Opening Ceremony was a memorable experience that kicked off the Games and defined their atmosphere.

It was a night brimming with fanfare and joy, as athletes from around the world embodied the true power of "The Strength of Kindness", leaving an indelible mark on all who witnessed their incredible spirit and resilience.

Among the most anticipated moments was the entrance of the torch that ended its journey with the lighting of the cauldron, which officially started the Special Olympics World Winter Games Turin 2025.





This is your country and we say to the world: welcome to the most loving and joyful country on Earth!

*Timothy Shriver*  
Chairman at Special Olympics International

I want to be the one who listens to them  
and understand them

*Gilmour Borg*  
Sargent Shriver Global Messenger



This is also a hope for something big: a welcoming community, a  
fair society, a peaceful world.

*Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo*  
President of the Foundation  
"Organizing Committee of the Special Olympics Turin 2025 World Winter Games"

Our strength comes from our hands,  
our hearts, and our minds. Let's use this incredible power every  
day to show the world what we're made of, together with our  
extraordinary athletes!

*Alessandra Locatelli*  
Italian Minister for disabilities





## THE SHOW



## Parade of Athletes

In the vibrant atmosphere of Inalpi Arena, athletes and performers with and without intellectual disabilities took center stage, participating in the marching band, choir, and dance performances, lighting up the evening with their talents.

The Parade of Athletes, always a highlight of the Opening Ceremony, kicked off the night with palpable excitement.

1,500 athletes and Unified partners (teammates without intellectual disabilities) from 100 nations proudly marched into the arena behind their country's billboard.





## The Flame of Hope

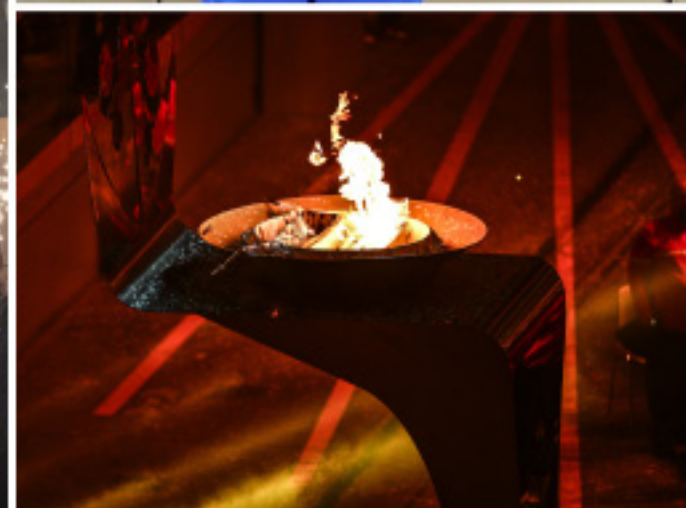
After traveling from Greece, receiving a blessing at the Vatican, and making its way to Turin, the Flame of Hope was carried into the arena by athletes and Unified partners representing each of the seven Special Olympics regions.

From Victor Nthambiri Lijembe, a floorball player from Special Olympics Kenya, to Hsu Hsiu-Chuan, a figure skater from Special Olympics Chinese Taipei; from William Smith and Jessie Espinet, a Unified floorball pair from Special Olympics USA, to Shivanjali, an alpine skier from Special Olympics Bharat (India); and again, Mahmood Mohsen, a snowshoer from Special Olympics Bahrain; Tatiana Aranda, a floorball player from Special Olympics Uruguay; Rinaldo Burgener, a cross-country skier from Special Olympics Switzerland; and finally, Elisa Parutto, a dancer from Special Olympics Italy.



WATCH IT  
NOW!



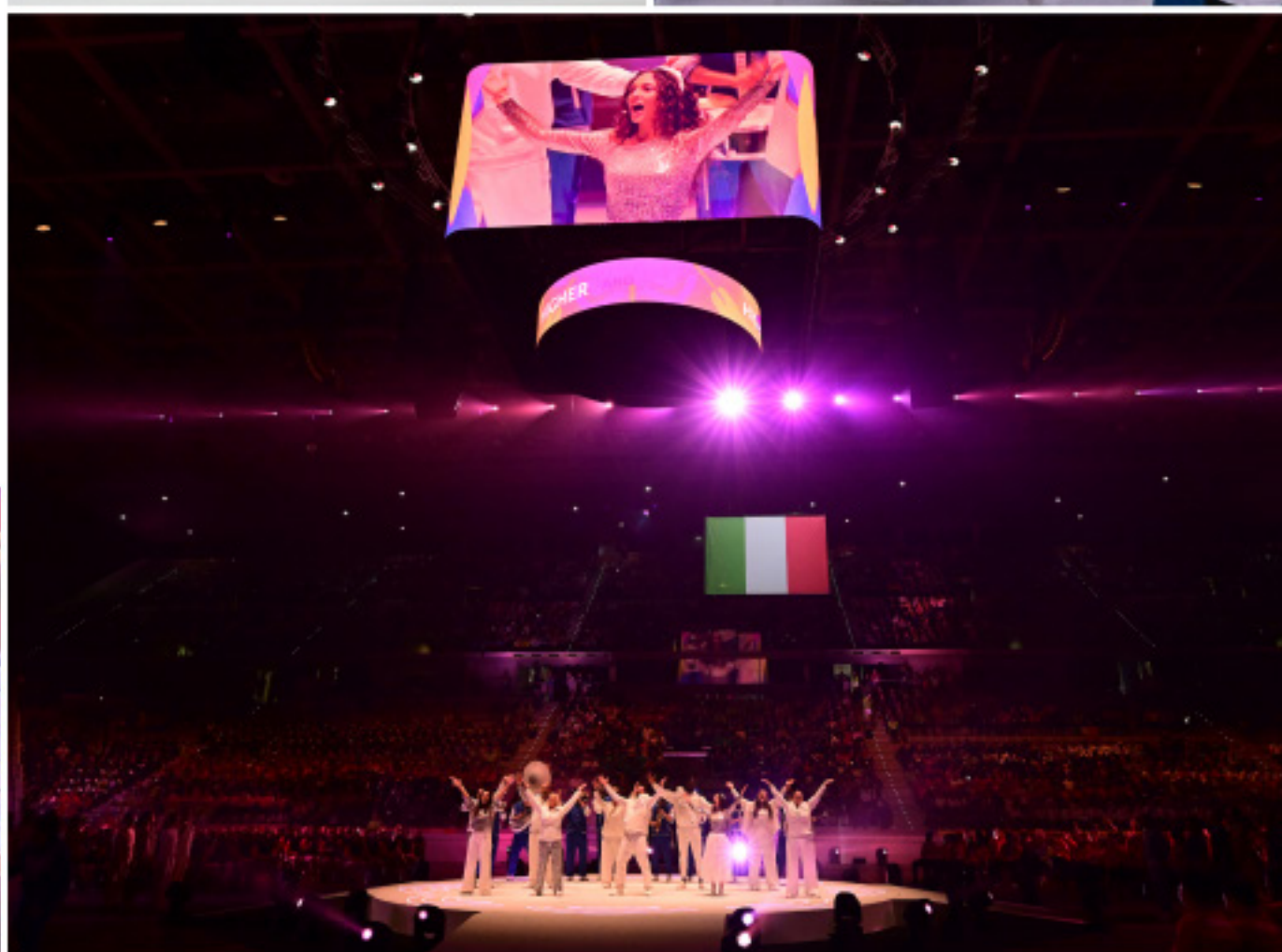
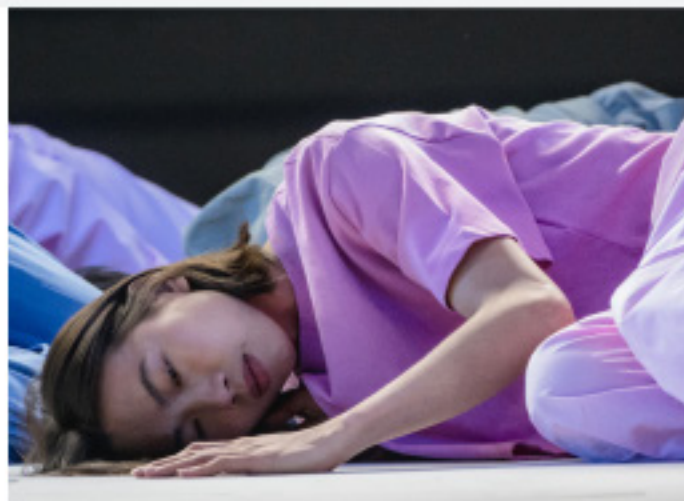


## Performances

Notable celebrities came out to honor the real stars of the Games: the athletes.

Grammy-nominated singer Aloe Blacc got the crowd on their feet with a performance of his Wake Me Up, The Man, I Need a Dollar, One Good Thing, and Don't Go Alone.

Italian singer and rapper Mr. Rain saluted the athletes with his song Supereroi.





## The Venues Turin



### Sports in Turin



**Floorball**

📍 *Inalpi Arena*



**Figure Skating**

📍 *Tazzoli Ice Arena*



**Short Track Speed Skating**

📍 *Tazzoli Ice Arena*



**MATP**

📍 *Pala Asti*





The Italian Prime Minister **Giorgia Meloni** visited the Inalpi Arena in Turin, where she met floorball athletes and Team Italy, spending time with them to offer greetings and encouragement, and highlighting the importance of the Games and the mission of Special Olympics



“ Today, I had the pleasure of meeting the extraordinary athletes of the Special Olympics World Winter Games Turin 2025. To all of them go my most sincere wishes: continue to chase your dreams with the same strength and the smile I saw today in your eyes. Italy is with you. ”

*Giorgia Meloni Italian Prime Minister*



## The Venues Sestriere



### Sports in Sestriere



Alpine Skiing

📍 *Alpette*



Snowshoeing

📍 *Sport Center*





The Venues  
**Bardonecchia**



**Sports in Bardonecchia**



**DanceSport**

*Palazzo delle Feste*



**Snowboarding**

*Melezet*





The Venues  
**Pragelato**



**Sports in Pragelato**




**Cross Country Skiing**

 *Cross Country  
Olympic Center*





A young woman wearing a blue protective helmet and a black chin strap is shown in profile, looking intently at her opponent. The background is a blurred boxing ring with a crowd of spectators. The lighting is dramatic, with blue and orange tones.

Let me win.  
But if I cannot win,  
let me be brave  
in the attempt.

*Special Olympics  
Athlete Oath*

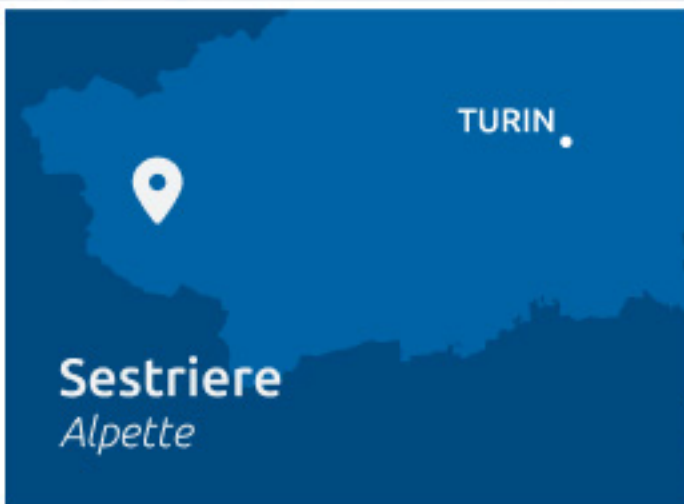
Sports  
**Alpine Skiing**

WATCH THE  
**HIGHLIGHTS**



**AT THE GAMES**

**332** Athletes  
**133** Coaches  
**54** Delegations



TURIN

**Sestriere**  
*Alpette*

Special Olympics **Alpine Skiing** includes various events with different levels of difficulty and course types:

- **Slalom:** A race on a course with tight and closely spaced turns.
- **Giant Slalom:** Features wider, more spaced-out turns compared to slalom.
- **Super-G:** A speed event with a longer course and wide turns, blending elements of giant slalom and downhill skiing.

Alpine skiing has been a sport at the Special Olympics World Games since the **first Special Olympics Winter Games in 1977**, held in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, USA.



DO YOU WANT TO  
**KNOW MORE?**







When 19-year-old alpine skier and Special Olympics athlete **Madison Cyr** is gliding down the slopes her motivational saying **"Girl, You Got This"** keeps her going. Her father, Jason Cyr, and grandfather, Andrew Vandertol who are in Sestriere with her, have been not only supportive of her journey, but active participants in her training.

For Madison, her family is what drives her to compete. "I really enjoy when my dad and grandfather watch me ski," said Madison. "Every time I hug my grandfather it gets me emotional."

READ THE  
FULL STORY!







**Dominika Oravcova** holds up a Special Olympics Slovakia flag at the alpine skiing medal ceremony, cheering loudly for her sister, **Michaela**, who has just won the bronze medal. As Michaela steps off the podium, the two sisters embrace, and tears of pride and joy stream down Dominika's face.

It is clear for all to see the bond between these sisters is unbreakable. "Michaela is everything to me. She is my gold treasure," Dominika says. She's been by Michaela's side every step of the way—helping her train, encouraging her through challenges, and cheering her on at every competition.



READ THE  
FULL STORY!



Sports  
**Cross Country Skiing**

WATCH THE  
**HIGHLIGHTS**



**AT THE GAMES**

**296** Athletes  
**110** Coaches  
**48** Delegations



**TURIN**

**Pragelato**  
*Cross Country Olympic Center*

Special Olympics **Cross Country Skiing** (or Nordic Skiing) offers a range of races to suit all skill levels, from short distances for beginners to longer distances for more advanced athletes.

Athletes can compete using different cross-country skiing techniques:

- **Classic Technique:** Skiers follow groomed tracks using a motion similar to walking on skis.
- **Free Technique (Skating):** Skiers use a skating motion, requiring more space and allowing higher speeds.

Cross Country Skiing has been a sport at Special Olympics World Games since 1977.



DO YOU WANT TO  
KNOW MORE?







Cross-country skiing athlete and proud Pau Gasol fan represented Special Olympics Spain at the World Winter Games Turin 2025.

**Vanesa Antolín Serna's** life has been transformed through the power of sport.

The 31-year-old Special Olympics athlete has faced her share of challenges, many stemming from a world that doesn't always understand intellectual disabilities. But Vanesa's story is not defined by hardship. Instead, it's one of resilience and strength.

READ THE  
FULL STORY!







For **Uroš Kotnik**, a three-time gold-medalist, forward is the only way ahead.

The 35-year-old cross country skier arrived in Pragelato ready to set another milestone in his remarkable journey, and take home another gold!

"I came here for the medal! And to make Slovenia proud" proclaims Uroš with confidence and a tender smile. With a history of overcoming challenges through sport, and winning big, Uroš embodies the true energy of a Special Olympics athlete



READ THE  
FULL STORY!



Sports  
**DanceSport**

WATCH THE  
**HIGHLIGHTS**



**AT THE GAMES**

**71** Athletes  
**44** Coaches  
**27** Delegations



**TURIN**

**Bardonecchia**  
*Palazzo delle Feste*

**DanceSport** combines elements of dance and athletic competition.

Athletes perform choreographed routines set to music, which may include various dance styles such as ballroom, modern dance, hip-hop, and other forms of dance.

Types of Competitions:

- **Solo:** Athletes perform choreography alone
- **Pair:** Two athletes perform choreography together with physical touch
- **Duo:** Two athletes perform choreography together without physical touch
- **Team:** A team of athletes performs synchronized choreography

DanceSport was first introduced as a demonstration sport at the Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi in March 2019.



DO YOU WANT TO  
**KNOW MORE?**







## CHEERS FOR CHAMPIONS



Through dance, Special Olympics Italia athlete **Elisa Parutto** transforms her emotions into movement. All she needs is to close her eyes and immerse herself in the choreography, allowing herself to be carried away by the intensity of the music and the rhythm of the song.

READ THE FULL STORY!







The all-consuming nature of a first love may be too much for some people. But for others, it becomes a part of their soul, their identity.

That's how **Nora Schultz** felt when she found her first love, dance, at the age of six



READ THE  
FULL STORY!



Sports  
**Figure Skating**

WATCH THE  
**HIGHLIGHTS**



**AT THE GAMES**

**72** Athletes

**45** Coaches

**26** Delegations

TURIN

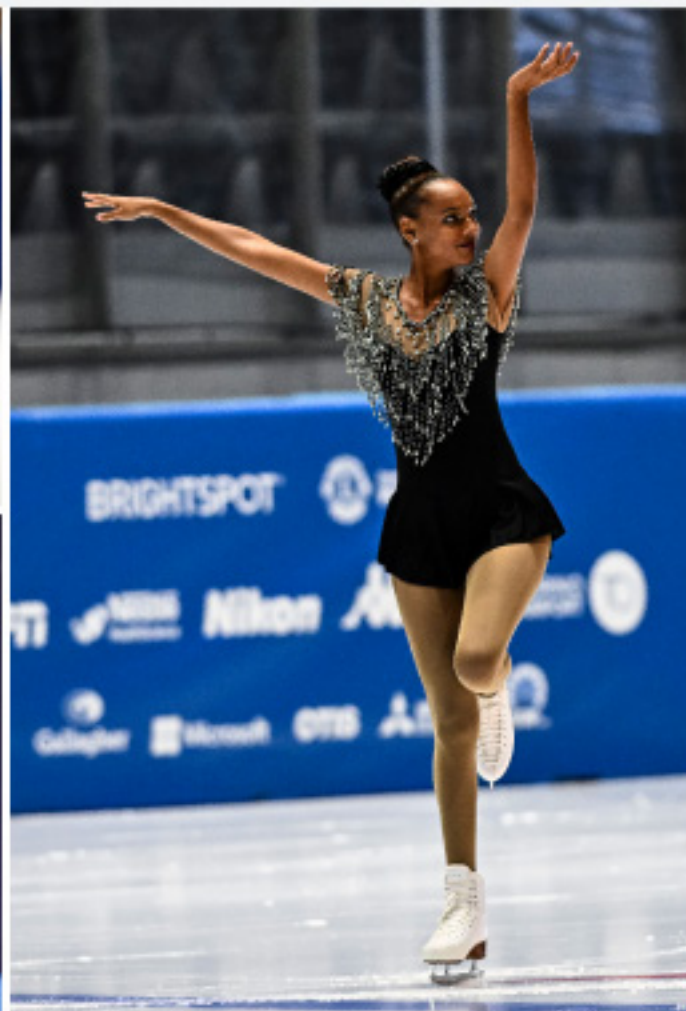
**Turin**  
*Tazzoli Ice Arena*

**Figure skating** is a sport where individuals, pairs, or groups perform spins, jumps, footwork, and other intricate and challenging moves on ice skates.

Events:

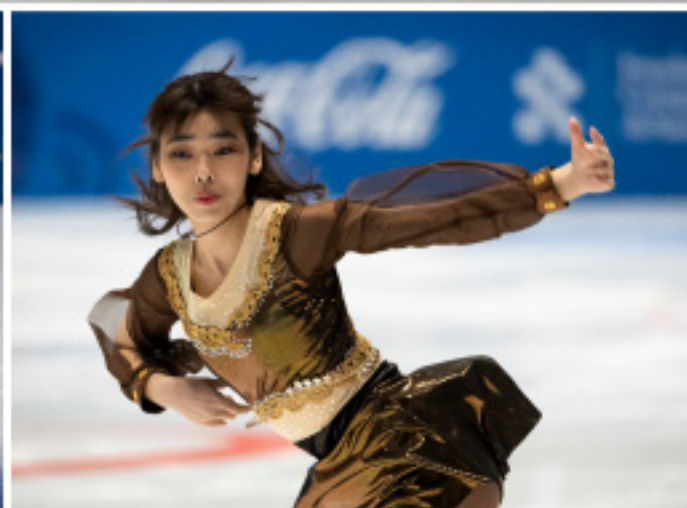
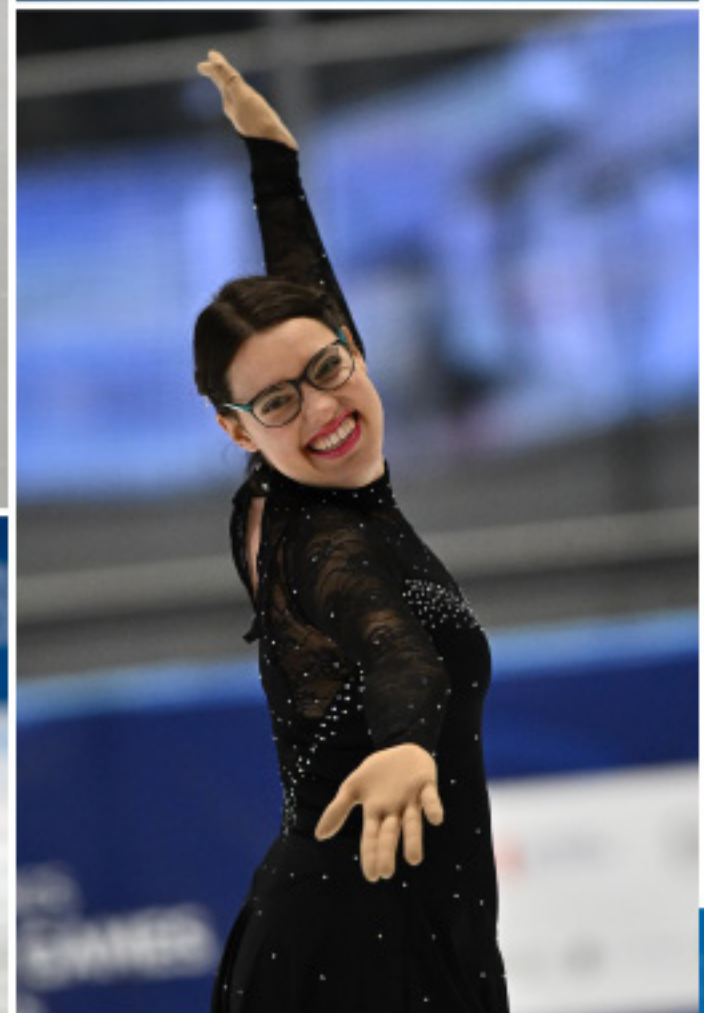
- **Free skating:** Solos or pairs
- **Short Program:** Only individual

Figure skating has been a sport at Special Olympics World Games since 1977 when it was first introduced at the Winter Games in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, USA.



DO YOU WANT TO  
**KNOW MORE?**







Special Olympics Canada athlete **Alexander Pang** has dedicated 18 years to figure skating.

Over these years, Alexander has excelled, rising to the level of a Level 5 figure skater.

Beyond his hard work and dedication, he credits a turning point in his career to his first encounter with the **Special Olympics Healthy Athletes®** during Canada's National Games in 2012.

READ THE  
FULL STORY!







Representing their beloved home, three **Special Olympics Turkmenistan** athletes traveled to the Special Olympics World Winter Games Turin 2025.

For the first time, their delegation competed in figure skating at a Special Olympics World Games.

READ THE  
FULL STORY!



Sports  
**Floorball**

WATCH THE  
**HIGHLIGHTS**



**AT THE GAMES**

**246** Athletes  
**73** Coaches  
**32** Delegations

**TURIN**

**Turin**  
*Inalpi Arena*

**Floorball** is a sport similar to ice hockey but played indoors with a lightweight, perforated ball and plastic sticks.

Skates are not required, making it accessible to a broader range of athletes.

Each team consists of three field players and one goalie.

The playing area is smaller than a traditional hockey rink and features raised edges to keep the ball in play.

Matches are divided into two 15-minute periods.

This form of Floorball was developed for people with intellectual disabilities, and was introduced as a demonstration sport at the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Korea.

Floorball was offered as one of the Unified sport at the Turin World Winter Games.



DO YOU WANT TO  
**KNOW MORE?**







### Dream Team Go!

It's a mantra that can be heard ringing through the rafters before every training session and at the start of every competition for **Special Olympics Mongolia's Floorball team**; the country's first all-women's team.

The motto was created by team member **Khulan Uyanga**, 21, as a way to motivate the team toward achieving their goals. The team didn't have a rallying cry and she wanted to create something that inspired them every day. She approached her coaches with the idea and received a rousing "go for it!"

READ THE  
FULL STORY!







For **Imane Bouissane** and her teammates, this friendship is the most important part of their World Winter Games experience.

Imane shared, "We are very proud to be here to hold each other as friends. Friendship is number one and competition is number two."

Through competing in Berlin, where the team earned an impressive 4th place finish, the athletes built an enduring friendship and decided to continue as a team to participate in a new sport together at the World Games.



READ THE  
FULL STORY!



Sports  
**Snowboarding**

WATCH THE  
HIGHLIGHTS



**AT THE GAMES**

**61** Athletes  
**34** Coaches  
**21** Delegations



**TURIN**

**Bardonecchia**  
*Melezet*

Special Olympics **Snowboarding** includes various types of races tailored to athletes' skill levels:

- **Slalom:** A course with closely spaced gates requiring quick, sharp turns.
- **Giant Slalom (GS):** A longer course with gates spaced further apart, requiring speed and precision.
- **Super-G:** Combines elements of giant slalom and downhill skiing, with a longer course and wide turns.
- **Parallel Giant Slalom:** Competitors race side-by-side on identical courses simultaneously.

Snowboarding has been a sport at Special Olympics World Games since the Special Olympics World Winter Games in 2001.



DO YOU WANT TO  
**KNOW MORE?**







**Marcel Schilling**, a charismatic 34-year-old snowboarder from Thurgau, Switzerland, has kicked off his Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025 experience in style, adding two silver medals to his growing collection.



READ THE  
FULL STORY!







On 11 March, Special Olympics Chile athlete **Gonzalo Escobar** was awarded the first gold medal of the Special Olympics Winter World Games, competing in the Advanced Giant Slalom Snowboarding Final.

"For me, this medal means sacrifice, bravery, effort, familial support and support from coworkers,"



READ THE  
FULL STORY!



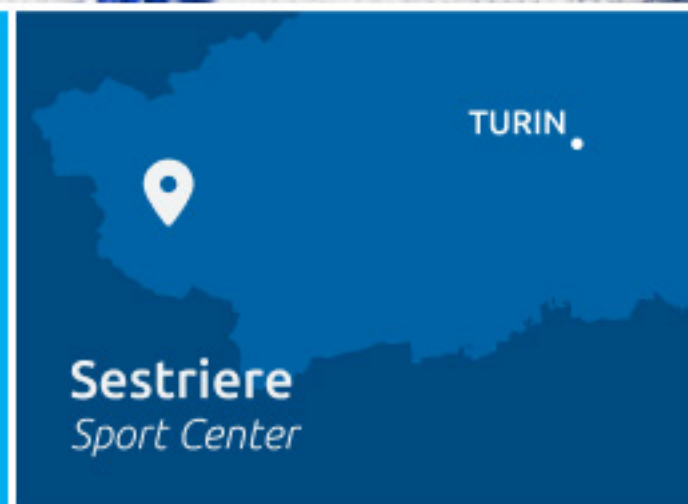
Sports  
**Snowshoeing**

WATCH THE  
**HIGHLIGHTS**



**AT THE GAMES**

**295** Athletes  
**137** Coaches  
**61** Delegations



TURIN

**Sestriere**  
*Sport Center*

**Snowshoeing** is a running event on snow, using specialized snowshoes that allow participants to walk or run without sinking into the snow.

Types of Races:

- **Short Distance:** 25, 50, and 100 meters.
- **Middle Distance:** 200, 400, and 800 meters.
- **Relay Races:** 4x100m

Snowshoeing has been a sport at Special Olympics World Games since at least 2005, when it was included in the Nagano Games.

Snowshoeing was offered as one of the Unified Sports Experiences during the Games



DO YOU WANT TO  
**KNOW MORE?**







At 66-years-old, Austria's **Gerhard Kirnbauer** is the oldest athlete at the Special Olympics World Winter Games.

Competing in the 100-meter and 200-meter Snowshoeing, he's showing the world that it is never too late to take on new challenges!

READ THE  
FULL STORY!







SO Costa Rica athletes **Ashly Sanchez Ledezma** and **Emily Salguero Mata** were each the first across the finish line in their respective divisioning rounds.

Yet, these accomplishments were especially impressive given that, before this week, they had never seen snow.



READ THE  
FULL STORY!



Sports

# Short Track Speed Skating

WATCH THE HIGHLIGHTS



## AT THE GAMES

**295** Athletes  
**137** Coaches  
**29** Delegations

TURIN

**Turin**  
*Tazzoli Ice Arena*

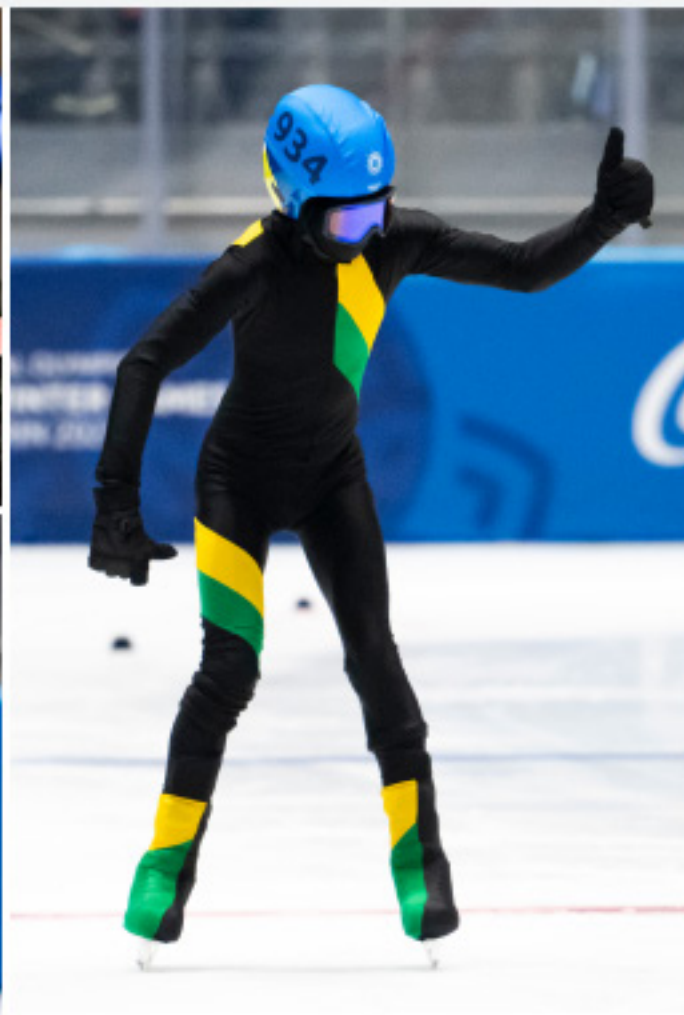
**Short Track Speed Skating** today is a lifetime fitness sport for individuals of all ages.

It provides both cardiovascular and aerobic benefits as well as improving muscle strength, balance, and coordination.

Short track speed skating is a competitive form of ice skating performed on an oval track measuring **111.12 meters** in length.

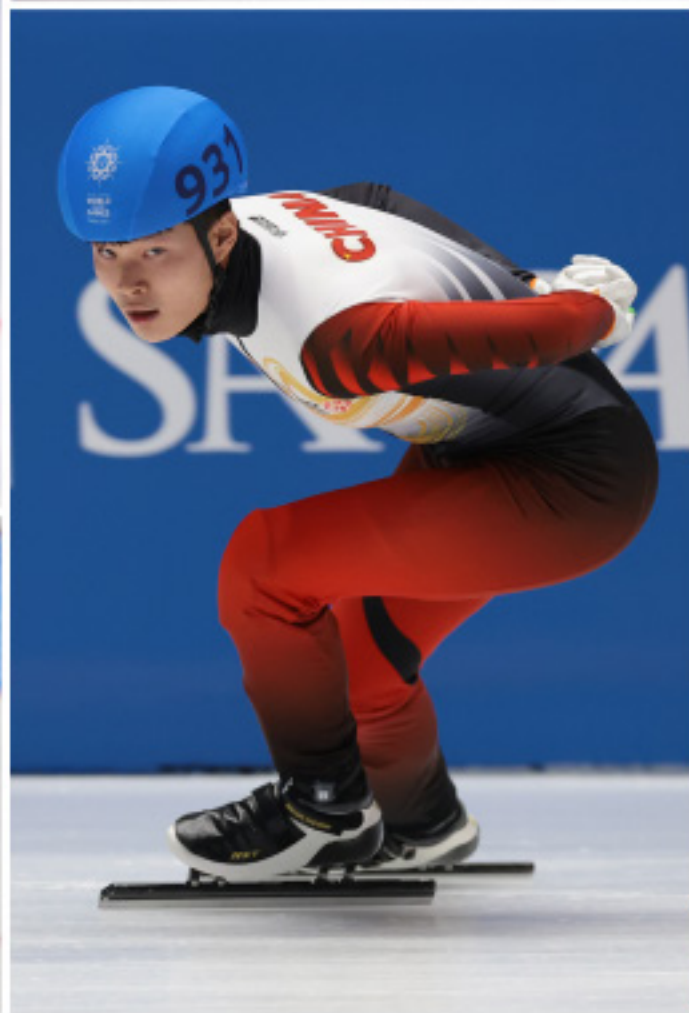
Races can span 1, 2, 3 or 7 laps, or distances from 500 to 1500 meters.

Short Track Speed Skating has been a sport at Special Olympics World Games since 1997, when it was first introduced at the Winter Games in Toronto, Canada.



DO YOU WANT TO  
**KNOW MORE?**







Twin brothers **Dale** and **Dave Oddman** from Special Olympics Jamaica overcame numerous challenges to compete in Short Track Speed Skating at the Special Olympics World Winter Games... the least of which was training exclusively on **roller blades!**

While the lack of ice to train on in Jamaica presented a challenge, Dale and Dave knew that transitioning their skills from asphalt to ice was more than possible. After all, the path from roller skating to ice skating was already well carved by their coach, **Nigel Davis.**

READ THE  
FULL STORY!







At 22 years old, Hungarian wunderkind **Zsombor Bohn** brings home double gold in Division 01 of Speed Skating and bronze in the 1000m race.

On receiving the medals, Zsombor said, "I can't believe it and yet I can believe it - I won!"



READ THE  
FULL STORY!



Sports  
**MATP**



**AT THE GAMES**

**30** Athletes

**10** Coaches

**2** Events



**TURIN**



**Bardonecchia**

*Palazzo delle Feste*

**Turin**

*Pala Asti*

The **Motor Activity Training Program (MATP)** is our movement-based sport program for athletes with profound intellectual disabilities who have high support needs. MATP includes athletes who are unable to participate in traditional competitions.

The program's goal is to meet the individual autonomy needs of each person, even in cases of severe intellectual disability, as every person has the right to an appropriate physical education program.

MATP can be made up of skill stations where athletes take part in sport related activities that develop their mobility, dexterity, striking, kicking and balance.

MATP also involves group games where athletes can work and interact with others to develop their skills.

All MATP activities are modified to each athlete's needs, interests, and motivations.

For the first time at a Winter World Games, a Unified MATP Exhibition has featured athletes with severe and profound disabilities.



DO YOU WANT TO  
**KNOW MORE?**







MATP skiers **Michal Dolinsky**, with Special Olympics Slovakia, and **Samuele Tron**, with Special Olympics Italia, took to the slopes at Melezet to demonstrate how mono-skiing works.

Michal and Samuele are both the same age and are both coached by their fathers.



READ THE FULL STORY!





Second Lady **Usha Vance** led the U.S. Presidential Delegation to the 2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Turin and marched with Special Olympics USA in the Parade of Athletes at Opening Ceremony.

During her visit to the Games, she cheered for athletes in competition, presented medals at MATP, and participated in the project exhibition at the Global Youth Leadership Summit.

“ I am honored to have attended the Special Olympics World Winter Games this weekend and to have led the Presidential delegation. Hearing from these inspirational athletes about their journeys and dedication to their events was uplifting. Thank you Special Olympics for fostering a community of leaders, and for such a warm welcome. ”

*Usha Vance* Second Lady of the United States



## Healthy Athletes



As the largest collector of health data on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Special Olympics helps inform key decisions, benefitting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities globally.

Evidence shows that athletes who go through at least two screenings see health improvements. For instance, 67% of athletes referred for oral health issues no longer had mouth pain.

### AT THE GAMES

At World Winter Games, Special Olympics has offered health screenings in seven disciplines

**1854** Screenings

**908** Referrals



## Healthy Hearing

(Audiology)

281 Screenings  
248 Referrals



## Fit Feet

(Podiatry)

281 Screenings  
248 Referrals



## FUNfitness

(Physical Therapy)

261 Screenings  
185 Referrals



## Health Promotion

(Prevention and Nutrition)

212 Screenings  
171 Referrals



## Opening Eyes

(Vision/Eye Health)

331 Screenings  
24 Referrals



## Special Smiles

(Dentistry)

264 Screenings  
180 Referrals



## Strong Minds

(Emotional Health)

166 Screenings  
43 Referrals

DO YOU WANT TO  
**KNOW MORE?**





## THE RIBBON CUTTING





# Sargent Shriver Global Messengers

WATCH IT  
NOW!




For twenty years Special Olympics athlete leaders have served in a select role titled **Sargent Shriver Global Messenger**.

These spokespeople for the movement lead the campaign for a more inclusive world for people with intellectual disabilities.





DO YOU WANT TO  
**KNOW MORE?**



# Global Youth Leadership Summit



WATCH IT  
NOW!



The 2025 Special Olympics Global Youth Leadership Summit took place in Turin, Italy, harnessing the energy and diversity of the Special Olympics Winter World Games. This Summit united **nearly 100 youth and adult leaders from over 20 Special Olympics Programs** to showcase how young people, both with and without intellectual disabilities, are accepting the call to be the next generation of inclusive leaders under the theme **The Future Begins with Us.**

DO YOU WANT TO  
**KNOW MORE?**



## Logo Rationale

The Global Youth Leadership Summit aims to create a lasting impact, fostering a new generation of unified leaders dedicated to spreading the inclusion movement.



# FRIENDSHIP TURNED LEADERSHIP





The **Special Olympics Global Youth Leadership Council (GYLC)** was established to transform Special Olympics' work with young people into work done by young people themselves.

The Council will position young leaders to play an active role in the execution of Special Olympics programming at the Global, Regional, National, and local levels.



LEVELING  
THE FIELD



## Young Athletes



Pala Gianni Asti was a party on 11 March as **over 200 children** from seven area schools gathered for Special Olympics Young Athletes, an early childhood play program for children with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities, ages 2 to 7 years old.





DO YOU WANT TO  
**KNOW MORE?**







**YOUNG ATHLETES  
TAKE THE FLOOR**



## Families



Families are the number one fans of our Special Olympics athletes. They offer a unique type of support, love and encouragement that no one else can.

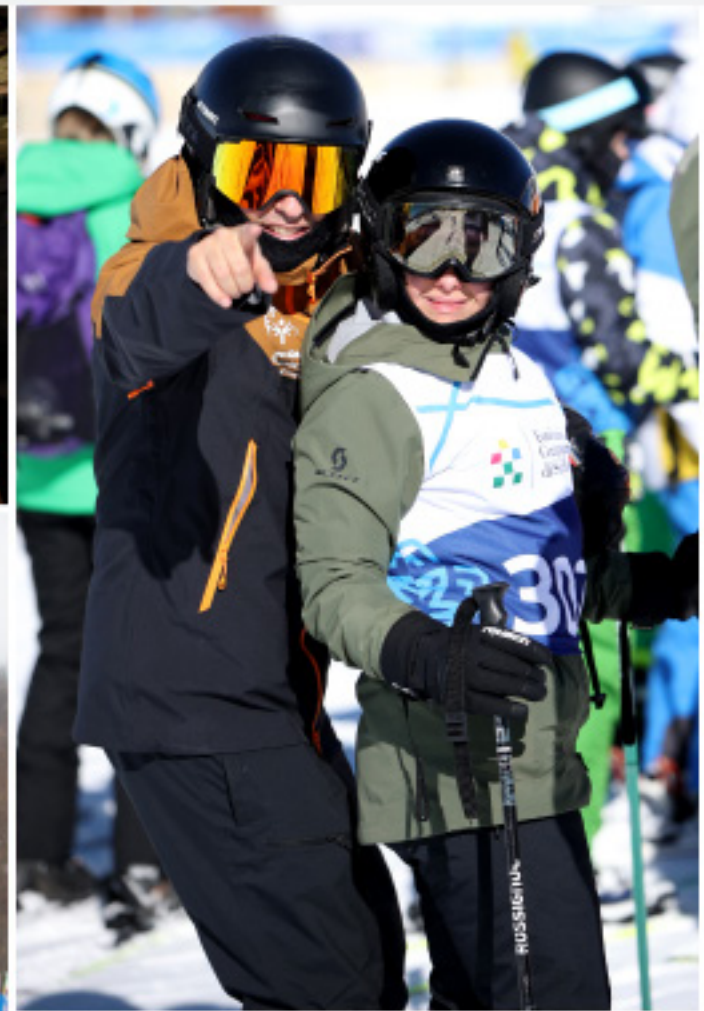
At Special Olympics competitions and events, family members are among friends and feel at home. They watch with pride as their athlete finds success and joy, as they are an essential link to the community and wider support for our movement.

**Over 3.000 family members participated in the event.**



DO YOU WANT TO  
**KNOW MORE?**







MORE THAN SPECTATORS



# Volunteers



More than 2,000 volunteers participated in the World Games

**Volunteers are the backbone of the Special Olympics movement.**

They are coaches, trainers, officials, event organizers, fundraisers and managers. They can also be unified partners, playing alongside athletes with intellectual disabilities, or fans cheering in the stands.



GET INVOLVED!







For **Carlo Gabriele** and **Emilia Morelli**, love and volunteering go hand in hand.

Married for 64 years, they have spent the past 27 years dedicating their time to volunteering for sport events and nonprofits in Turin, Italy.

After working at the Special Olympics National Games before, they couldn't wait to be part of the organization again.

READ THE  
FULL STORY!



We really enjoy volunteering at Special Olympics and working with the athletes with intellectual disabilities, since the very first time we were involved with the Movement.

*Emilia Morelli*  
volunteer



DAL



**Delegation Assistant Liaisons (DAL)** play a crucial role in the organization and execution of such a unique event as the World Games in Turin.

They are assigned to Delegations by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and they represent the main point of contact between LOC and each Delegation.

Each Delegation has 1 Head-DAL, with additional DALs (1–4) are assigned based on: Delegation Size, Language Needs, and Number of competition venues and events attended.

More than 400 applications were received for the Delegation Assistant Liaison role, with more than 200 people carefully selected in the process.

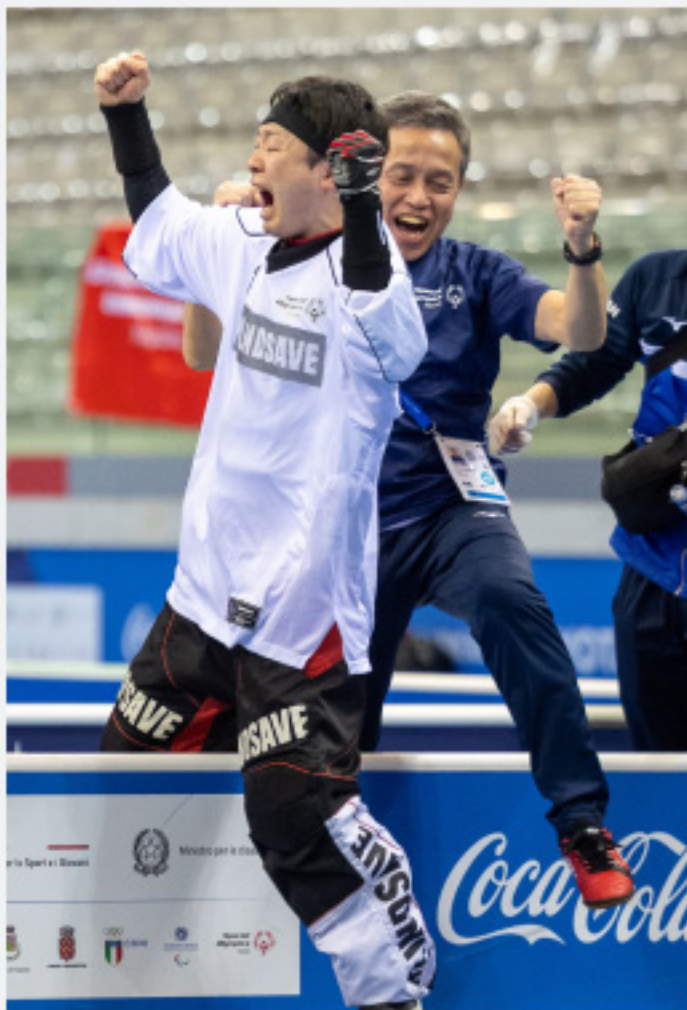
## Coaches



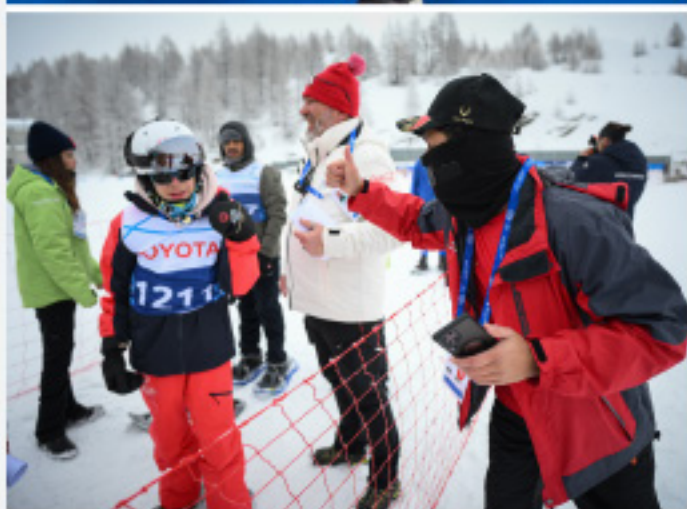
Coaches teach the skills, attitude, values and spirit that define a true athlete. They are role models and character-builders both on and off the field of play. Special Olympics coaches go even further, they support athletes with intellectual disabilities to discover their own strengths and abilities. They encourage them and challenge them to build upon those strengths and improve every day.

GET  
INVOLVED!





1,000 coaches and delegations' officials supported all athletes at the World Winter Games in Turin.







For a group of athletes from **Namibia**, the journey to the Special Olympics World Winter Games Turin 2025 was more than just a flight across continents: it was a leap toward new experiences, self-belief, and a future filled with expanded possibilities.



READ THE FULL STORY!



# Closing Ceremonies

WATCH IT  
NOW!



The 2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games came to a heartfelt and unforgettable close with **two simultaneous Closing Ceremonies**, one at the Pala Gianni Asti in Turin and the other in the alpine town of Sestriere.

Both venues were filled with energy, emotion, and pride as athletes, families, volunteers, and fans came together for one final celebration.

Together, these twin ceremonies honored the courage, determination, and unity of more than 1,500 athletes from around the world.





In Turin, a vibrant show of performances and speeches lit up the Pala Asti, while in Sestriere, surrounded by the mountains that hosted many of the week's events, the ceremony embraced the spirit of the Games in a more intimate, yet equally powerful setting.



“ We saw you give it your all, push beyond limits. You are a magnificent example of courage and determination. This is a powerful, universal message: every single person deserves freedom and inclusion. ”

*Mary Davis*  
CEO of Special Olympics



“ It has been a week we wish would never end, but in truth, these Games don't end here, because each of you will return home carrying a memory that will last a lifetime.

We, too, have learned so much from being with you, from living your emotions, your hopes, and from sharing your smiles.

After this week, we will be better people. The future begins tomorrow, and it is up to us to show that we have truly understood the meaning of these extraordinary Games.

**Andrea Abodi**  
*Italian Minister for Sports and Youth*



“ You proved that nothing is impossible, and we want to keep going!

**Alessandra Locatelli**  
*Italian Minister for disabilities*

”

“ Thank you all, you have been wonderful. Hosting the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Italy has been the fulfillment of a dream. We carry in our hearts the experience you've shared with us: when there is passion, love, and resilience, there are no barriers. Thank you for giving us something we will carry with us for the rest of our lives. Thank you to the volunteers, the athletes, the families and the organizers, and thank you also to our tourism professionals. We are proud of you. We are proud of Italy. Well done, and congratulations.

”

**Daniela Santanchè**  
*Italian Minister for Tourism*





“

When we go back to our own countries remember:  
Closing Ceremonies open new chapters.

*David Evangelista*  
Regional President & Managing Director, Europe Eurasia

”





## Media Exposure



The **Global Media Hub** produced and distributed **more than 1000 pieces of content** covering all delegations in action at the Turin Games.

99 countries parade clips and 98 interviews made available within 2 hours of the end of the Opening Ceremony. 95% of the participating countries received sport news highlights content and interviews. Through a partnership with SOEE and the global sports video distributor Story10, the Global Media Hub produced daily highlights of the Games which **reached 69 markets across broadcast and digital distribution.**








Featured on **247 outlets**  
(broadcast + digital)

Broadcast distribution: **73 outlets** in **39 markets**

**693K impressions** via 174 sports, news & entertainment websites

# Social Media Impact

## Global excitement and engagement at record levels

-  **11.8M+ Impressions** • Worldwide Reach
-  **25K+ Shares** • Organic Amplification
-  **30K New Followers** • Across All Platforms
-  **3.1% Engagement Rate** • Outperforming Sector Average
-  **258K Reactions**
-  **7.6K Comments**
-  **295K Total Engagements**



## Organizing Committee

The "COMITATO ORGANIZZATORE DEI GIOCHI MONDIALI INVERNALI SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORINO 2025" Foundation was established on January 23, 2024, with the aim of organizing, managing, promoting, and communicating the 2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games.

Through sport, the Foundation promotes a culture of respect and inclusion.



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A close-up photograph of two hands shaking in a firm grip. The hand on the left is wearing a white sleeve, while the hand on the right is wearing a colorful, patterned sleeve with shades of blue, green, and yellow. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting with trees and a bright sky.

**These Games have sown the seeds of inclusion, showing a path built on mutual trust and respect, on opportunity and optimism, so that everyone – through sport and beyond – is valued for what they can give.**



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**WORLD**  
WINTER  
**GAMES**  
TURIN 2025