



**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:**

In Iran, Special Olympics were established in 2000 by Professor Asghar Dadkhah, a clinical psychologist with a deep commitment to serving individuals with intellectual disabilities. Recognizing his expertise and dedication, Eunice Shriver enlisted Professor Dadkhah's support in developing the Special Olympics program in Iran.

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Registered Athletes and Unified Partners: 8040  
Coaches: 641  
Competitions: 93

**INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:**

- 1999 World Summer Games in North Carolina USA
- 2003 World Summer Games in Dublin- Ireland
- 2005 World Winter Games in Japan
- 2007 World Summer Games in Shanghai- China
- 2009 World Winter Games in Idaho USA
- 2011 World Summer Games in Athens Greece
- 2013 World Winter Games in Pyeong Chang
- 2015 World Summer Games in Los Angeles
- 2019 World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi UAE
- 2023 World Summer Games in Berlin Germany

**REGIONAL EVENTS:**

- 2004 SOMENA Games, Tunisia (delegation of 20 persons)
- 2006 SOMENA Games UAE, Dubai (delegation of 41 persons)
- 2008 SOMENA Games, UAE, Abu Dhabi, UAE (delegation of 89 persons)
- 2010 SOMENA Games, Syria (delegation of 111 persons)
- SOMENA Beirut-Lebanon weightlifting games (delegation of 6 persons)
- SOMENA Dubai-UAE Regional Football Selection Games (delegation of 24 persons)
- 2014 SOMENA Games, Cairo (delegation of 50 persons)
- 2018 Abu Dhabi Regional Games

**22 SPORTS:**

Athletics	Badminton	Basketball	Bocce	Bowling
Cycling	Roller Skating	Floor Hockey	Floorball	Handball
Futsal	MATP	Swimming	Power Lifting	Sailing
Volleyball	Alpine Skiing	Table Tennis	Snow Shoeing	Skating
Short Track Speed	Young Athletes			

**OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:**

Athlete Leadership, MATP, Family Activation, Young Athletes Program

**EXECUTIVE STAFF:**

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**BOARD CHAIR:**

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- Dr. Zahra Sarlak
- Mohammad Ali Rouhi Fard Ppour
- Yaser Tahmasbiahangarkolaei
- Nahid Mahfouzi
- Baharak Rastadmehr
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**SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRAN**

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