

MEDIA OVERVIEW

Special Olympics Team Canada is set to compete at the **Special Olympics World Winter Games Turin 2025**, uniting athletes from across the country to showcase their skills, determination, and sportsmanship on the world stage. This international event will bring together more than 1,500 athletes from 102 countries, competing in a variety of winter sports while **celebrating athletic excellence and the power of inclusion**—challenging misconceptions and changing attitudes toward people **with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)** across the globe.

KEY MESSAGES

About Special Olympics Team Canada 2025

- Special Olympics Team Canada is made up of **134 team members** from coast to coast to coast, including **90 athletes, 24 coaches, mission staff, team leadership, and 1 honorary coach**.
- Special Olympics Team Canada will compete in 5 of the 8 winter sports in Turin: **alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, figure skating, short track speed skating and snowshoe**.
- Since being named to the national team nearly a year prior to the Games, athletes have undergone **rigorous training** both in their hometowns and at **two national team development training camps** held in Calgary and Quebec City. These camps have included **Sport- Specific Training, Mental Performance Training, Indigenous-led Team Culture Sessions, Safe Sport Training, Health and Nutrition Education, and Fitness Testing**.
- Meet the Team: <https://teamcanada.specialolympics.ca/meet-the-team/>

About the Special Olympics World Winter Games Turin 2025

- The Special Olympics World Winter Games are the **largest global multisport event for athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)**, showcasing athletic excellence while fostering inclusion and acceptance.
- From March 8-15, 2025, Turin, Italy, will welcome more than **1,500 athletes** from **102 countries** to compete at world-class winter sports venues.
- But these Games are about more than competition—they are a powerful celebration of perseverance, opportunity, and **the limitless potential of every athlete**.
- Beyond sport, athletes will engage in **cultural exchange, leadership development, and health programs** designed to promote well-being and drive lasting social change.
- The Games unite athletes, volunteers, and supporters from around the world, reinforcing the **impact of inclusion in sport and society**.
- Learn more: <https://www.turin2025.org/en>

About Special Olympics Canada

- Special Olympics Canada is a national organization dedicated to enriching the lives of **individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)** through the transformative power of sport.
- Special Olympics is more than an event. With **more than 47,000 athletes** supported by more than **22,000 coaches and volunteers** across more than **350 communities nationwide**, Special Olympics Canada provides daily, year-round programming.
- Open to **all ages and abilities**, athletes can get involved as young as 2 years old and stay connected for a lifetime.
- Special Olympics is an inclusion movement powered by sport, with programs focusing on **physical, mental, and social development**, helping athletes build confidence to take on any challenge – in sport and in life.
- Every **\$1 donated to Special Olympics Canada generates \$8.76 in social benefit**, reinforcing the **positive impact of inclusive sport** in Canada.
- To learn more about the movement or to register as an athlete or volunteer, visit www.specialolympics.ca

HOW TO FOLLOW SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAM CANADA 2025

- **Daily Updates & Highlights:** Stay informed with real-time updates on competition results, athlete stories, and behind-the-scenes moments by subscribing to the 'Games at a Glance' newsletter at teamcanada.specialolympics.ca
- **Downloadable Media:** Access **high-quality photos and videos** for media coverage, storytelling, and social sharing via the SOTC Media Hub at teamcanada.specialolympics.ca
- **Follow the Team on Social Media:** Follow **@SpecialOCanada** on all platforms for official updates, live coverage, and athlete features. Use **#SOTeamCanada25** and **#Turin2025** to join the conversation.

For more information, media inquiries, or access to official assets, please contact our media relations team:

Allie Wiebe

Communications Liaison, Special Olympics Team Canada 2025
awiebe@specialolympics.ca

Sarah Profitt-Wagner

Communications Liaison, Special Olympics Team Canada 2025
swagner@sopei.com