

2015 ANNUAL REVIEW

*Special
Olympics
Ireland*



**TOGETHER
WE ACHIEVE
SO MUCH**



***“Let me win,
but if I cannot win,
let me be brave in
the attempt”***

- ATHLETE'S OATH -

***Special
Olympics
Ireland***



2015 WAS A GREAT YEAR FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND!



It was a privilege to be elected as Chairperson of Special Olympics Ireland by my fellow board members and I would like to thank my predecessor, Mary Davis, for her outstanding contribution.

I've witnessed the amazing impact that Special Olympics has had, for many years. A stand out memory for me, this year, was the L.A. Games and the performance of Team Ireland's 88 athletes, 40 coaches and management team. The athletes earned a grand total of 82 medals, including 26 gold, 28 silver, 28 bronze and 41 placement ribbons, as well as 31 individual personal bests. 157 Ireland volunteers gave their time to work at the Games and raise vital money for the programme. Individually, and collectively, they lifted the spirit of the country.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the multitude of stakeholders that both sustain and develop the programme offered throughout the island of Ireland. Through your dedication and effort, our programme remains the leading light, globally.

I would like to thank our committed and skilled staff, our amazing volunteers, coaches and supportive family members. Our many funding partners and sponsors continue to demonstrate wonderful loyalty and support. On every level, 2015 was a brilliant year and the organisation is well placed to continue onwards and upwards.

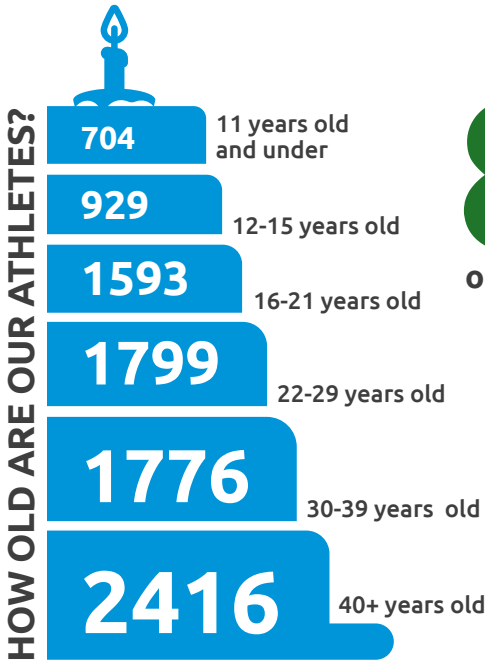


Terry Buckley
Chairman


IT'S ALL ABOUT SPORT

The mission of Special Olympics is “to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continued opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendships with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.”

801 NEW ATHLETES



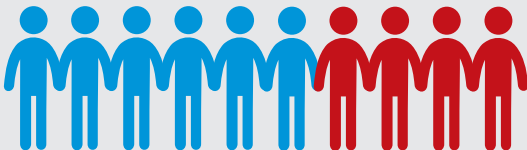
83%



of athletes have at least one registered family member



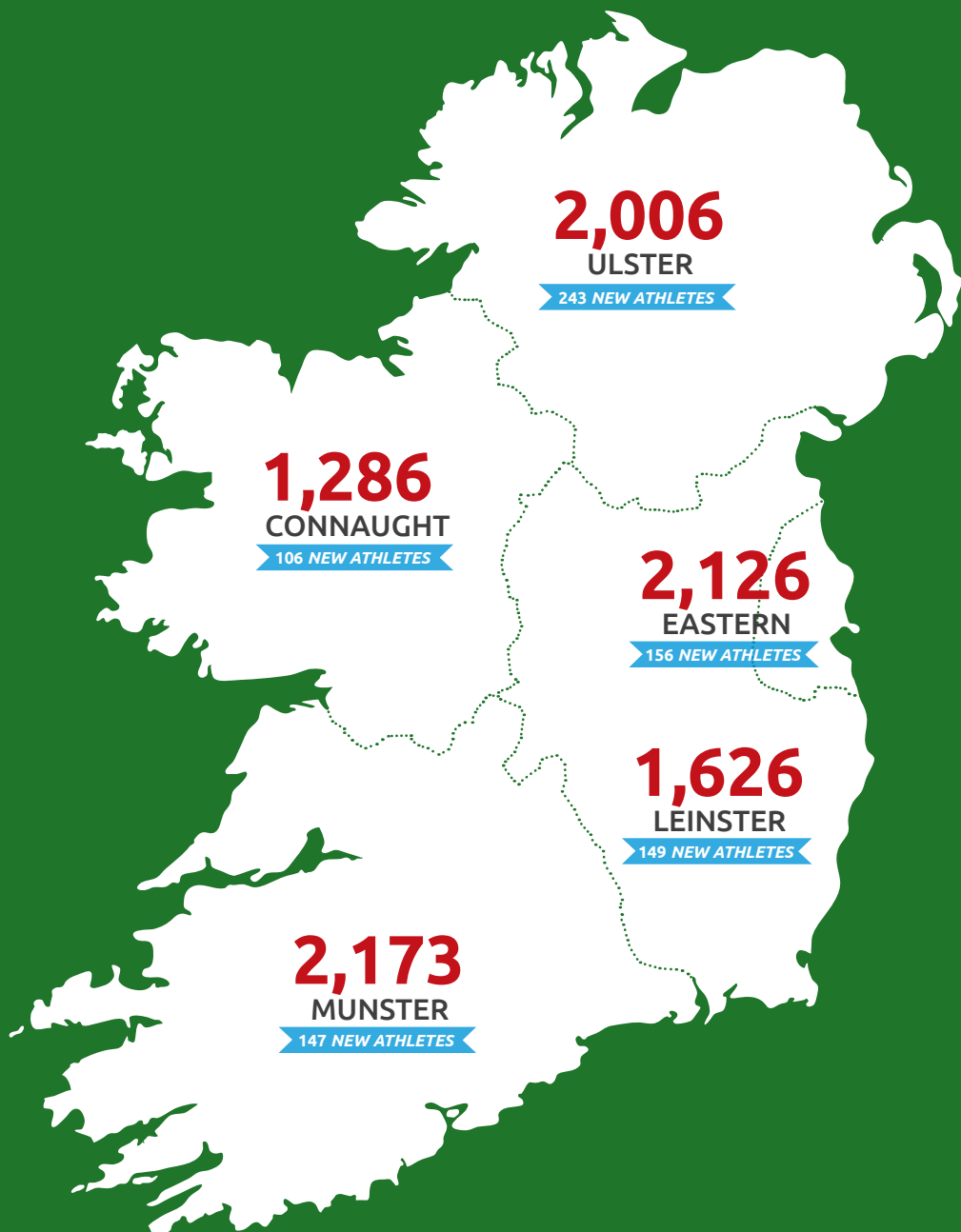
YEAR-ROUND
sports training and athletic competition



62%
MALE

38%
FEMALE

ATHLETES IN THE PROGRAMME PER REGION 2015



WE HAVE 8 SPORTS LEAGUES

In addition to the planned competition, which takes place throughout the programme, sports leagues have also been established. Managed by teams of volunteers, these leagues provide additional opportunities for athletes to grow and develop their skills in a competitive environment.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8





742 **basketball**
athletes



676 **bowling**
athletes



454 **bocce**
athletes

314 **football**
athletes

79 **badminton**
athletes

65 **aquatics**
athletes

48 **athletics**
athletes

23 **golf**
athletes

FINISH

CONSTANTLY DEVELOPING, CONSTANTLY IMPROVING

A high quality coach education programme is paramount to Special Olympics Ireland. Special Olympics athletes, similar to any athlete, deserve to be coached by qualified coaches in their chosen sport. Minimum standards are established for coaches throughout the programme and coaches are encouraged to maintain their coaching levels as outlined by the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport.



“Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try”



athletes attended
*Code of Ethics and
Good Practice training*





Training courses
provided in
2015

- ✓ Special Olympics Induction
- ✓ Intellectual Disability Education
- ✓ Safeguarding
- ✓ Health Promotion
- ✓ Club Governance
- ✓ Competition and Event Management
- ✓ Athlete Mentoring



1,488
training opportunities
provided to volunteers
and athletes

COMMITTED TO GOOD GOVERNANCE PRACTICES



We are committed to

- ✓ Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sectors
- ✓ Standards in Fundraising Practice
- ✓ Anti-Doping Compliance Guidelines
- ✓ Code of Ethics
- ✓ Access NI Code of Practice



Annual audited accounts
can be found on:
specialolympics.ie

SUPPORTING CLUBS IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

"It is impossible to capture, in a few words, what we have achieved together in 2015. Every day, magic happens in Special Olympics, but this does not happen by chance. The quality, strength and depth of our programme shone, again, in villages, towns and cities across the whole island in 2015. The foundation of Special Olympics Ireland lies in the club-based programme offered at a community level." (Matt English CEO)

221 
community based clubs

 31
special schools

96 
service providers

348
total clubs

 135 clubs engaged in health and wellbeing Promotion



Focus on health and wellbeing

- ✓ Health and wellbeing initiatives make health information more accessible
- ✓ We want to provide athletes with the tools and knowledge to make healthier choices for everyday health and wellbeing
- ✓ Empowering athletes to stay healthy and perform to the best of their ability



new volunteers recruited,
vetted and trained in 2015



volunteers active in 2015

**“The best place to find
yourself is to lose yourself
in the service of others”**

- MAHATMA GANDHI -

Age of active volunteers



VOLUNTEERS ARE VITAL

Special Olympics Ireland would not exist today without the time, energy, commitment and enthusiasm of volunteers. In 2015, in communities all over the island of Ireland, thousands of individuals took time from their busy schedules to help change the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

2015 WORLD SUMMER GAMES

The 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games was the culmination of four years of training and advancement competition for Team Ireland. Once selected in September 2014, a training plan was implemented, resulting in a well prepared team of athletes, coaches and managers who competed, so successfully, at the Games.



Team Ireland athletes competed in 12 Olympic-type sports





157
volunteers travelled
to work on the games

28

volunteers worked as
International Officials
at the Games

Team Ireland consisted of

128
members

88 were athletes with an age
range of 16 – 73 years old



350
family members and
supporters travelled
to support the team



8,314km*

travelled to Special Olympics World
Summer Games in Los Angeles



Total number of medals



gold



silver



bronze



placement
ribbons



personal
best

*Distance from Dublin Airport to Los Angeles International Airport

OUR SUPPORTERS ARE COMMITTED AND LOYAL

It is through the continued kindness of our volunteers and donors that we are aided in our mission of growing and developing our programme, so that the needs of all our athletes, and the athletes of the future, continue to be met. Your effort ensures that we can continue to provide the services our athletes deserve.

30 Years

of partnership with
eir celebrated in 2015

256

donors joined our Support
an Athlete campaign

Core funding

received from:
Sport Ireland
Sport NI



€612k

was raised through our 2015
Annual Collection Day

157

volunteers raised
€714,832 for the
sports programme

Thank you!

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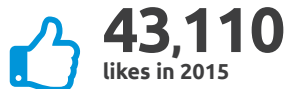
POLAR PLUNGES



took place across Ireland, supported by the Law Enforcement
Torch Run for Special Olympics Ireland



Facebook



€13 Million 
advertising value equivalent PR
(press and broadcast) total in 2015

Our top tweet

"#TeamIreland golfers enjoyed putting practice with @Graeme_McDowell @IrishOpenGolf today. Incredible, @EuropeanTour!"

107,794 impressions
4,449 engagements

93 likes
45 retweets



11,505
🐦 followers

591%
🐦 increase in profile visits

2,156%
🐦 increase in impressions

TELLING OUR STORY

Storytelling is a hugely important tool for Special Olympics as it helps us promote the many great achievements of our athletes, volunteers and supporters. Special Olympics Ireland embraces all forms of media. We strive to utilise all available platforms, including traditional media and the ever expanding digital spectrum, to help spread Special Olympics' message.

2020 STRATEGY

To drive and support a quality year-round sports programme that is embedded in local communities, resourced by vibrant and strong leaders, and offers health and well-being opportunities to athletes with an intellectual disability from four years of age upwards.

www.specialolympics.ie

