

A national platform for what comes next

The National Summer Games bring to life what our movement is here to achieve: more opportunities to compete and progress, greater athlete leadership and a powerful platform for wider change.

Across eight single-sport competitions in England, Scotland and Wales, athletes have competed throughout the summer, culminating in a seven-sport finale across four days in Birmingham.

The significance of the Games is not simply their scale. It is how athletes are using the platform - competing, advising, designing, presenting, reporting and helping organisations become more accessible. The Games show what can happen when people with intellectual disabilities are given the platform, investment and expectation to achieve and lead.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT STARTS HERE

We are inviting leaders across sport, government, business, education and media to bring athletes into the decisions that affect them; open more pathways to participate and lead; and help change the environments and systems that continue to exclude people with intellectual disabilities.



OUR 2031 AMBITION: LEGACY FIRST, A DECADE OF CHANGE

Our ambition is to bring the Special Olympics World Summer Games to Great Britain in 2031, with the Games at the heart of a 10-year change accelerator.

Our 'Legacy First' approach means building the legacy from the outset - not waiting until after the Games - and harnessing this global sporting moment to change perceptions, unlock opportunity and drive greater inclusion and deep-rooted change for people with intellectual disabilities.

We want that change to begin now and continue long beyond 2031.

MADE POSSIBLE TOGETHER

We are incredibly grateful to the partners whose long-term support, belief and expertise help athletes and the Special Olympics GB movement thrive.



JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Help us harness the power of sport to create a Great Britain in which people with intellectual disabilities are seen, valued and taken seriously.

specialolympicsgb.org.uk



IMPACT AND MOMENTUM 2025-26

SPORT CREATES THE PLATFORM

ATHLETES SHOW WHAT IS POSSIBLE

Special Olympics GB uses the power of sport to create opportunity, develop leaders and change expectations of people with intellectual disabilities.



OUR 2025 REACH

17,928

athletes participated in Special Olympics GB sport in 2025, including through Motor Activity Training Programme (MATP)

100+

Accredited clubs and programmes

6,144

Registered volunteers

111

traditional and Unified competitions

IT STARTS WITH SPORT. BUT IT RARELY ENDS WITH SPORT.

Sport creates joy, friendship and belonging. It gives athletes a platform to show what they can do. When ability and leadership are seen, expectations can change - opening opportunities in sport, education, employment and everyday life.



IMPACT OUTCOME 01

More opportunity through sport

More people with intellectual disabilities can take part, compete, belong and pursue their own ambitions.

SPORT DESIGNED AROUND THE INDIVIDUAL - Our Motor Activity Training Programme (MATP) gives people with profound and multiple intellectual disabilities access to meaningful, personalised movement and sport - reaching people conventional provision can miss.

UNIFIED SPORT DRIVING INCLUSION IN SCHOOLS - Through work with Youth Sport Trust, 16 festivals brought together pupils from 115 schools with Unified Sport, while 73 young leaders developed leadership and communication skills. Schools reported improvements in pupil understanding of inclusion and new friendships developing between pupils with and without SEND.

12,857

estimated participants reached through MATP activity in 2025

894

Pupils engaged through Unified Sport festivals



IMPACT OUTCOME 02

Athletes leading and influencing

Athletes are developing as leaders, using their expertise and shaping what happens next.

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SPORT - Four athletes were appointed as National Sport Advisors, bringing their experience as competitors and coaches into the development of their sports. Working alongside the wider Advisor network and national governing bodies, they contributed to 10 Sport Development Plans covering competition, coaching and progression. This work, reinforced by SOGB achieving Tier 3 governance compliance in 2026, is strengthening our influence within the wider sporting system.

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION - At the National Summer Games, our athlete leaders have moved from consultation into co-design and delivery: shaping the Games format, mascot and merchandise; helping test the accessibility of the future Deposit Return Scheme; and taking visible roles across retail, presentation, media and storytelling.

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athletes bringing lived experience to the National Sport Advisor network

100

Athlete Leadership graduates by the end of 2025



IMPACT OUTCOME 03

Changing expectations, environments and systems

Athlete ability and leadership are reaching mainstream audiences and changing how organisations work.

A MAINSTREAM STAGE FOR ATHLETE ABILITY - At Turin 2025, 10 athletes won 15 medals. The BBC Sport documentary Special Olympics: The World in Turin took audiences behind those results, showing the preparation, personalities and abilities of the team. Angus Leckonby set three Guinness World Records in 2025; in 2026, Erica Dixon and Charlotte Laitner set three more as part of SOGB's largest London Marathon team, with coverage across BBC Sport, BBC Breakfast, This Morning and Channel 4 News.

FROM EVERYDAY ENVIRONMENTS TO NATIONAL SYSTEMS - Meals That Matter put athletes and Makaton communication into Co-op stores nationwide, raising more than £200,000 to date via a donation mechanic linked to a limited edition meal deal. At the Games, athletes are also testing recycling machines and communications before the UK's Deposit Return Scheme launches - identifying barriers while there is still time to design them out. Together, Meals That Matter and the DRS trial show how businesses can use their customer platforms, products and expertise to design more inclusive environments.

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Guinness World Records set by SOGB athletes across 2025 and 2026

2,400

Co-op stores took Meals That Matter into communities across the UK in 2025

THE IMPACT: People with intellectual disabilities have more opportunities to participate and progress, greater influence over the decisions that affect them, and a stronger platform from which to change expectations across society.