

***Special
Olympics***



1376

Total partnerships
across International,
Regional, and National
Federation levels

\$8,370,000 USD

Value-In-Kind generated
annually through partnerships.

PARTNERSHIP

EFFECT

**2025 Special Olympics
Sport Federation
Partnership Survey Report**

+9.3%

Increase in National-
Level partnerships
from 2024 to 2025

CONTENTS

1	Executive Summary	2
2	What Are Sport Partnerships?	3
3	About the Survey	4
4	2025 By the Numbers	5
	Year-Over-Year: 2024 vs. 2025	6
5		
6	The Impact: Sport That Wouldn't Exist Without Partnership	7
7	Beyond Participation: Pathways to the World Stage	8
8	Global Sport Popularity	9
9	Partnership Scope & International Federation Partners	13
10	Regional Highlights	15
11	Sport-Level Analysis (Global)	16
12	Engagement Areas & Partnership Levels (Global)	19
13	Government & Multi-Sport Body Engagement	20
14	Regional Deep-Dives	
14.1	- Africa	22
14.2	- Asia Pacific	23
14.3	- East Asia	24
14.4	- Europe Eurasia	25
14.5	- Latin America	26
14.6	- Middle East/North Africa	27
14.7	- North America	28
15	Conclusion	29

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SPORT HAS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM LIVES, BUT THAT POWER MULTIPLIES WHEN IT IS SHARED.

Sport has the power to transform lives, but that power multiplies when it is shared. Sport doesn't change lives on its own. It changes lives when it is accessible, well-coached, well-organized, and connected to the systems that already run it.

That is the premise behind the Special Olympics Sport Partnership Survey: every year, we ask our National Programs, Regional Offices, and International structures how deeply they are woven into the fabric of mainstream sport, sport federation by sport federation, country by country.

In 2025, 163 National Programs completed the survey, up from just 85 in the survey's first year in 2018 and reporting 1,311 national-level partnerships with sport federations around the world, a 9.34% increase over 2024. This report tells that story: where our partnerships are strongest, which sports and regions are leading the way, what these relationships are worth, and most importantly, what they make possible for athletes who would otherwise be shut out of competition, coaching, and community.

Read together with the Special Olympics Census, this report also shows how partnership activity tracks against participation on the ground: where federation relationships are deepest, sport tends to be more available, better resourced, and more sustainable.

This work matters most because of what it makes possible. Special Olympics is, at its core, a Sport for Development organization, and these partnerships are the mechanism through which sport translates into measurable social impact at the grassroots level, in communities where that impact is hardest to reach and most needed. As sport federations worldwide deepen their commitment to social impact and inclusion, the opportunity in front of us is significant: to build on this momentum together. The data in this report make the case clearly: partnership, when it goes deep, changes what is possible for athletes on the ground.

WHAT ARE SPORT PARTNERSHIPS?



Special Olympics sport partnerships are strategic collaborations with international, regional, and national sport and multi-sport governing bodies.

These partnerships connect Special Olympics entities at every level, from Special Olympics International down to individual National Programs, with the traditional sport structures that already govern, fund, and deliver their sport.

At the heart of our mission, these partnerships deliver high-quality, impactful sporting experiences that transform the lives of people with and without intellectual disabilities. They also push traditional sport structures toward full inclusion, creating a lasting, structural pathway for people with intellectual disabilities to participate in local clubs, teams, and sporting associations long after any single program or grant has ended.

Our sport partnerships are catalysts for meaningful impact: they help athletes build confidence, form friendships, and improve physical and mental wellbeing. By expanding access and deepening local participation, these partnerships break down barriers, strengthen communities, and move us closer to a world where everyone, regardless of ability, can experience the benefits of sport.

PARTNERSHIPS DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY, IMPACTFUL SPORTING EXPERIENCES THAT TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH AND WITHOUT INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES



ABOUT THE SURVEY

- ACCESS TO COMPETITION & TRAINING VENUES
- COACH EDUCATION & TRAINING
- SPORT OFFICIALS TRAINING & COMPETITION MANAGEMENT
- INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION SUPPORT
- SPORT EQUIPMENT
- PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT
- UNIFORM SUPPORT
- DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
- TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT

Programs also name the specific organizations they partner with, and report whether they hold partnerships with their national Sport Ministry, National Olympic Committee (NOC), National Paralympic Committee (NPC), or other multi-sport organizations.

The Sport Partnership Survey asks every Special Olympics Program to report which Sport Federations they partner with, and across which of the following areas of collaboration:

PARTNERSHIP LEVELS

Partnerships are scored by how many of the ten areas above they cover, and valued accordingly:

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
ONE AREA OF COLLABORATION – VALUED AT \$1,000 USD	TWO TO THREE AREAS OF COLLABORATION – VALUED AT \$5,000 USD	MORE THAN THREE AREAS OF COLLABORATION – VALUED AT \$10,000 USD

This valuation model lets us translate the depth of a relationship, not just its existence, into a comparable Value-in-Kind figure across very different partners, sports, and countries.

PARTNERSHIP SCOPE – MOST RECENT SURVEY



2025 BY THE NUMBERS



1376
Total partnerships between International, Regional, and National Federation levels & Special Olympics

163
National programs completed the survey

\$8,370,000
Value-in-Kind generated through partnerships

Partnership Levels

278

LEVEL 1 PARTNERSHIPS

501

LEVEL 2 PARTNERSHIPS

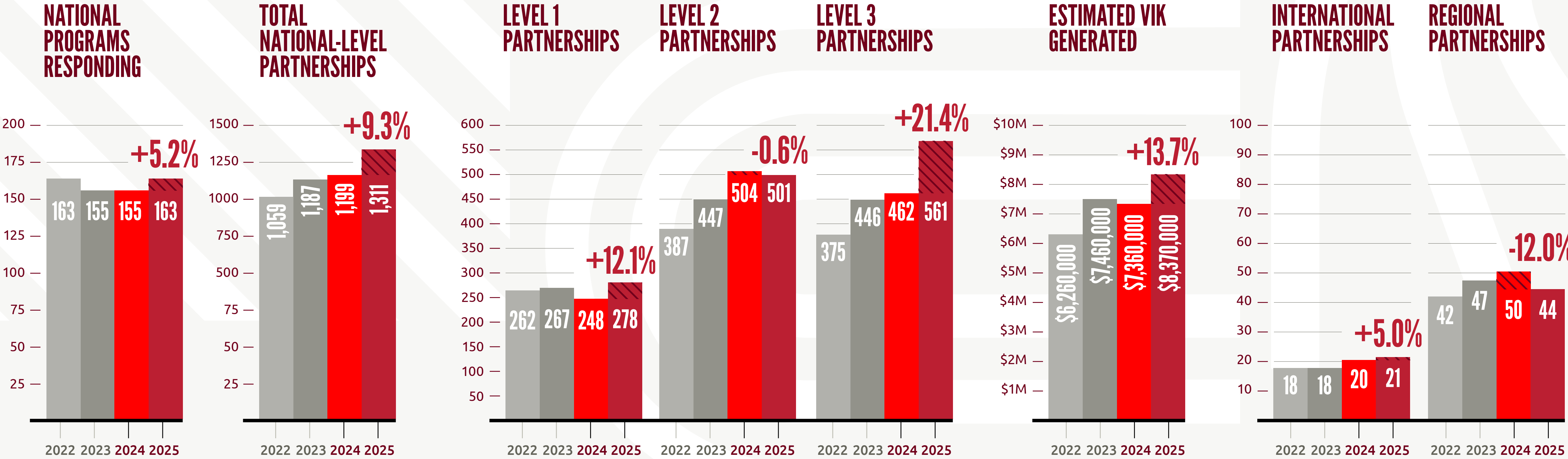
561

LEVEL 3 PARTNERSHIPS



YEAR OVER YEAR: 2024 VS 2025

Since the survey began in 2018, we’ve gone from 85 responding programs and 528 recorded national partnerships to 163 programs and 1,311 national partnerships in 2025, proof that the sport partnership model isn’t a one-time initiative, but a growing, self-reinforcing part of how our movement operates.



THE IMPACT:

SPORT THAT WOULDN'T EXIST WITHOUT PARTNERSHIP

71 National Programs told us they would not be able to offer at least one or more sports if it wasn't for their partnership with a federation partner. A total of 290 sports (44 unique sports) across these programs simply would not be offered and would otherwise be unavailable to athletes in those countries. 8 programs mentioned that the sport would still run, but that the quality of the offer would be at a much lower level.

Behind every Level 1, 2, or 3 designation is a coach who was trained because a federation ran the course, a venue that opened its doors because of an existing relationship, uniforms athletes wore because a federation partner supplied them.

BEHIND EVERY PARTNERSHIP

A coach who was trained



A venue that opened its doors



Athlete Uniforms supplied by a federation

WITHOUT PARTNERSHIPS

71

National Programs would not be able to offer at least one or more sports without partnerships.

290

Sports across these programs would be unavailable in those countries.

8

Programs would still run the sport, but at a much lower level.

BEYOND PARTICIPATION:
PATHWAYS TO THE
WORLD STAGE

Federation partnerships don't just bring sport to communities, they open doors to competition at the highest levels. In 2026 alone, approximately **1,000 Special Olympics athletes are projected to compete in International Federation and Regional competition opportunities**, made possible directly through the partnerships detailed in this report.

BASKETBALL

FIBA
FOUNDATION
3X3 OPEN



CHEERLEADING

ICU WORLD
CHEERLEADING
CHAMPIONSHIPS



POWERLIFTING

WORLD
CLASSIC OPEN
POWERLIFTING
CHAMPIONSHIPS



HOCKEY (FIELD)

FIH PARA HOCKEY
WORLD CUP



JUDO

IJF SARAJEVO
WORLD JUDO
CHAMPIONSHIPS
KATA



SAILING

WORLD
SAILING
INCLUSION
CHAMPIONSHIPS



KAYAKING

ICF PARACANOE
WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS



1,000

The number of Special Olympics athletes projected to compete in International Federation & Regional competitions.

These opportunities exist because federation partners have chosen to open their competition structures to Special Olympics athletes, not as a separate, parallel track, but as genuine access to the same stages where the rest of the sporting world competes.

While this report captures partnership activity at the national level in detail, national and local competition opportunities created by these same partnerships are not yet formally tracked, representing a meaningful area for future measurement.

GLOBAL SPORT POPULARITY

Each year, Special Olympics Inc. collects the annual Census, capturing every athlete, Unified Sports partner, and coach across the movement. Shown here are the most-participated sports in 2025, ranked by athlete participation then by number of programs.

SUMMER SPORTS 2025

1/2

Sport	Programs (Countries & US States)	Region	Athletes	Partners	Participants	Coaches	Certified Coaches	Federation Partnerships
Athletics	235	7	1,485,592	437,253	1,922,845	108,917	59,794	97
Football (Soccer)	213	7	472,893	135,023	607,916	51,115	34,450	94
Basketball	184	7	426,013	171,994	598,007	51,189	34,289	78
Bocce	183	7	320,997	55,055	376,052	32,119	23,515	27
Table Tennis	119	7	237,193	30,791	267,984	26,629	14,550	56
Swimming	198	7	232,443	47,868	280,311	31,014	21,516	74
Bowling	128	7	219,148	49,133	268,281	23,080	12,587	30
Badminton	102	7	148,003	56,037	204,040	15,298	12,706	63
Volleyball	112	7	96,038	29,521	125,559	9,844	6,353	28
Fitness	55	7	79,195	36,335	115,530	7,226	3,489	2
MATP	114	7	78,119	2,580	80,699	16,443	7,990	6
Cycling	90	7	73,884	7,423	81,307	6,342	5,129	23
Softball	58	5	70,862	20,701	91,563	11,106	5,996	5
Power Lifting	104	7	46,576	494	47,070	5,625	4,095	28
Roller Skating	35	6	41,171	842	42,013	2,948	2,582	5
Handball	49	7	38,919	3,831	42,750	4,929	3,538	19
Tennis	103	7	36,002	6,847	42,849	4,796	3,124	37
Golf	96	7	30,724	9,139	39,863	4,986	2,908	31
Gymnastics, Artistic	74	7	28,935	246	29,181	2,965	1,842	27
Flag Football	42	1	25,865	23,252	49,117	3,708	2,565	0
Futsal	35	6	24,725	34,380	59,105	2,497	1,706	0
Equestrian	80	7	18,170	669	18,839	2,683	1,714	19
Cricket	10	5	16,427	5,451	21,878	1,795	1,291	5
Netball	12	3	14,926	3,751	18,677	2,483	1,370	8

GLOBAL SPORT POPULARITY

SUMMER SPORTS 2025

2/2

Sport	Programs (Countries & US States)	Region	Athletes	Partners	Participants	Coaches	Certified Coaches	Federation Partnerships
Gymnastics, Rhythmic	63	6	13,648	2,035	15,683	2,345	1,507	24
Judo	50	7	11,692	791	12,483	1,611	1,215	31
Beach Volleyball	28	7	11,302	44,189	55,491	2,226	1,862	9
Corn Hole/Toss	22	1	10,754	4,567	15,321	2,226	1,196	0
Walking	14	5	10,014	930	10,944	894	227	0
Cheerleading	32	4	5,980	1,641	7,621	1,208	699	4
Boccia	18	5	5,949	698	6,647	894	409	0
Baseball	4	2	5,694	129	5,823	265	230	0
Pickleball	21	4	5,515	3,418	8,933	764	530	0
Sailing	27	4	5,073	498	5,571	340	293	9
Open Water Swimming	41	7	3,804	570	4,374	808	537	14
Hockey	18	5	3,627	306	3,933	601	342	20
Topgolf	11	2	2,989	469	3,458	539	244	0
Baseball-5	3	2	2,866	79	2,945	210	113	0
Triathlon	36	4	2,545	307	2,852	506	347	16
Kayaking	23	5	2,207	591	2,798	385	296	9
Padel	5	3	1,059	90	1,149	83	38	1
Esports	9	3	722	264	986	110	64	0
Rugby	7	1	611	77	688	98	61	5
Stand-Up Paddleboard	4	1	598	25	623	114	108	0
Rowing	6	3	588	132	720	66	23	0

GLOBAL SPORT POPULARITY

Read alongside the partnership data in this report, a clear pattern emerges: **the sports with the deepest bench of federation partnerships are, the same sports with the strongest athlete participation numbers.** Partnership is not just an administrative outcome; it is a leading indicator of where sport is thriving.

WINTER SPORTS 2025

1/1

Sport	Programs (Countries & US States)	Region	Athletes	Partners	Participants	Coaches	Certified Coaches	Federation Partnerships
Snowshoeing	93	6	50,333	1,082	51,415	6,293	3,375	8
Floorball	80	7	48,300	18,599	66,899	4,830	3,103	20
Floor Hockey	34	7	32,126	2,208	34,334	3,014	1,915	2
Cross Country Skiing	69	6	17,096	445	17,541	2,438	1,438	20
Alpine Skiing	95	6	16,760	684	17,444	3,579	2,190	31
Short Track Speed Skating	43	6	16,332	578	16,910	1,191	990	10
Dance	40	7	11,793	31,501	43,294	1,543	374	13
Figure Skating	44	7	8,989	1,029	10,018	1,137	761	14
Snowboarding	49	6	7,035	535	7,570	729	522	9
Curling	3	2	1,609	18	1,627	391	386	2
Climbing	5	1	713	18	731	105	74	3
Biathlon	1	1	35	30	65	4	2	0

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**“ THE SPORTS WITH THE
DEEPEST BENCH OF FEDERATION
PARTNERSHIPS ARE, THE SAME
SPORTS WITH THE STRONGEST
ATHLETE PARTICIPATION NUMBERS. ”**

OUR INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION PARTNERS

Behind every number in this report is a relationship, and at the international level, those relationships are with the governing bodies that shape their sports worldwide. Our International Federation partners open doors: access to global competition pathways, technical expertise from the people who write the rules of the sport, and a level of legitimacy that helps inclusion take root in mainstream sport structures everywhere.

Each logo on this page represents more than a signed agreement. It represents a federation that has chosen to make its sport more accessible, training coaches, sharing venues, opening competitions, and standing publicly behind the idea that sport belongs to everyone. These are the partnerships that make our work at the international level possible, and they set the tone for what partnership can look like all the way down to the national level.



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**“ BEHIND EVERY NUMBER IN
THIS REPORT IS A RELATIONSHIP,
AND AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL,
THOSE RELATIONSHIPS ARE WITH
THE GOVERNING BODIES THAT SHAPE
THEIR SPORTS WORLDWIDE. ”**

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Raw partnership counts favor whichever region simply has the most programs, so to compare regions on equal footing, we look instead at the average number of national-level partnerships per program in each region.

This figure is calculated against the total number of programs in each region, not only those that completed the survey this cycle, since a meaningful number of programs did not respond, and dividing by respondents alone would understate the denominator and inflate the ratio. It’s also worth noting that the United States is counted as a single national program in this calculation, not as individual state-level programs, consistent with how every other country in the movement is counted.

By this measure, Europe Eurasia leads the movement with roughly 10.3 partnerships per program, followed by Latin America at 8.4 and East Asia at 7.2. North America, Asia Pacific, Africa, and the Middle East North Africa follow more closely together, in the 4-to-6 range. Because East Asia’s ratio is built on a small number of total programs (6), it should be read as directionally strong rather than statistically comparable to larger regions like Europe Eurasia. Read together, this metric points to where partnership-building is deepest relative to the size of a region’s program footprint, rather than simply where the movement happens to have the most programs to begin with.

REGIONS WITH THE MOST REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



REGIONS WITH THE MOST NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS (BY % OF PROGRAMS)

Rank	Region	Partnerships	Partnerships per Program
1	Europe Eurasia	577	10.3
2	Latin America	167	8.4
3	East Asia	43	7.2
4	North America	122	5.5
5	Asia Pacific	143	4.8
6	Africa	167	4.5
7	Middle East/North Africa	92	4.2

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

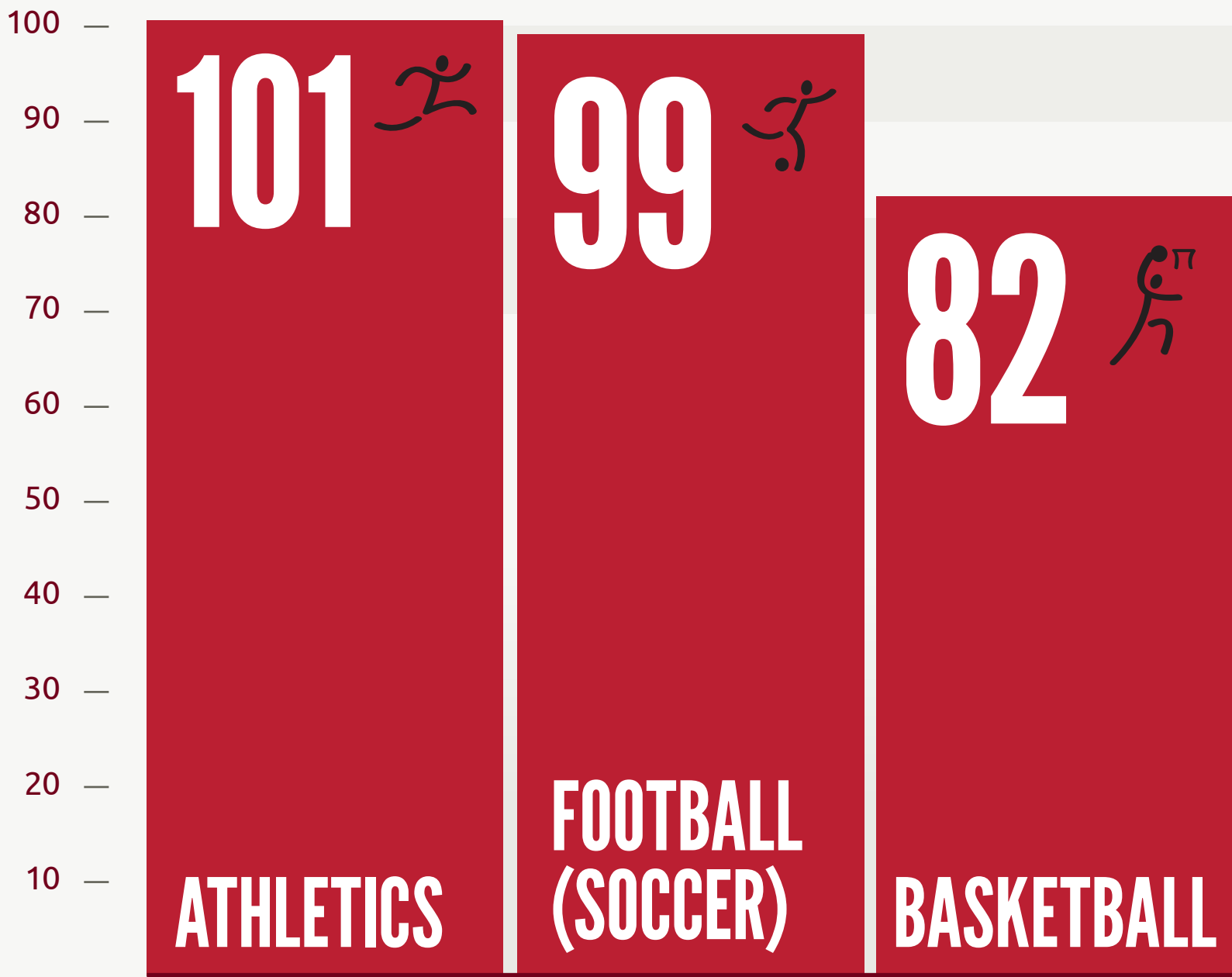
PROGRAMS WITH THE MOST PARTNERSHIPS



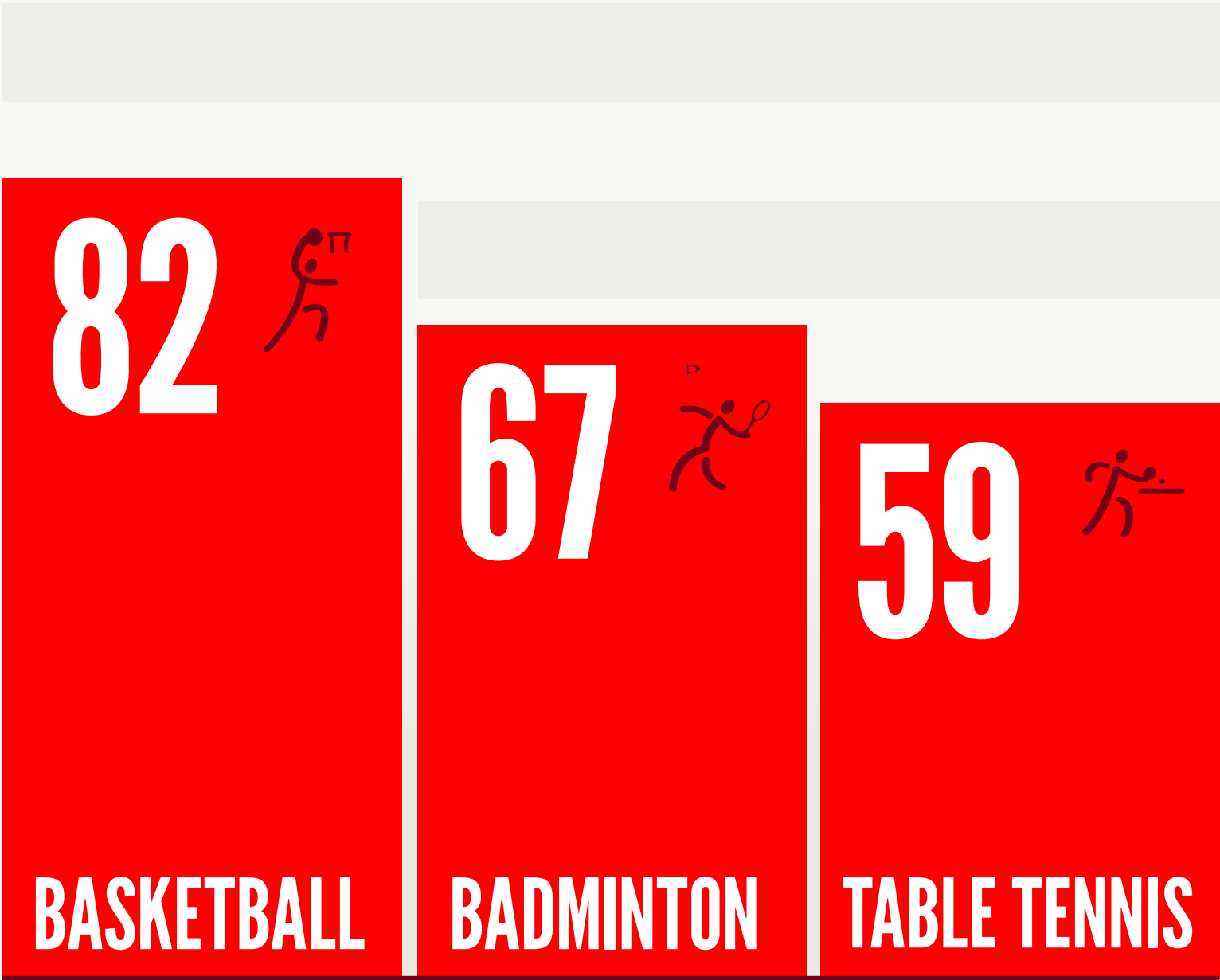
SPORT-LEVEL ANALYSIS

Together, these three rankings tell slightly different stories: overall partnership count shows reach, IF-level partnership shows where our global federation relationships translate into activity on the ground, and Level 3 concentration shows where partnerships are deepest and most multi-dimensional.

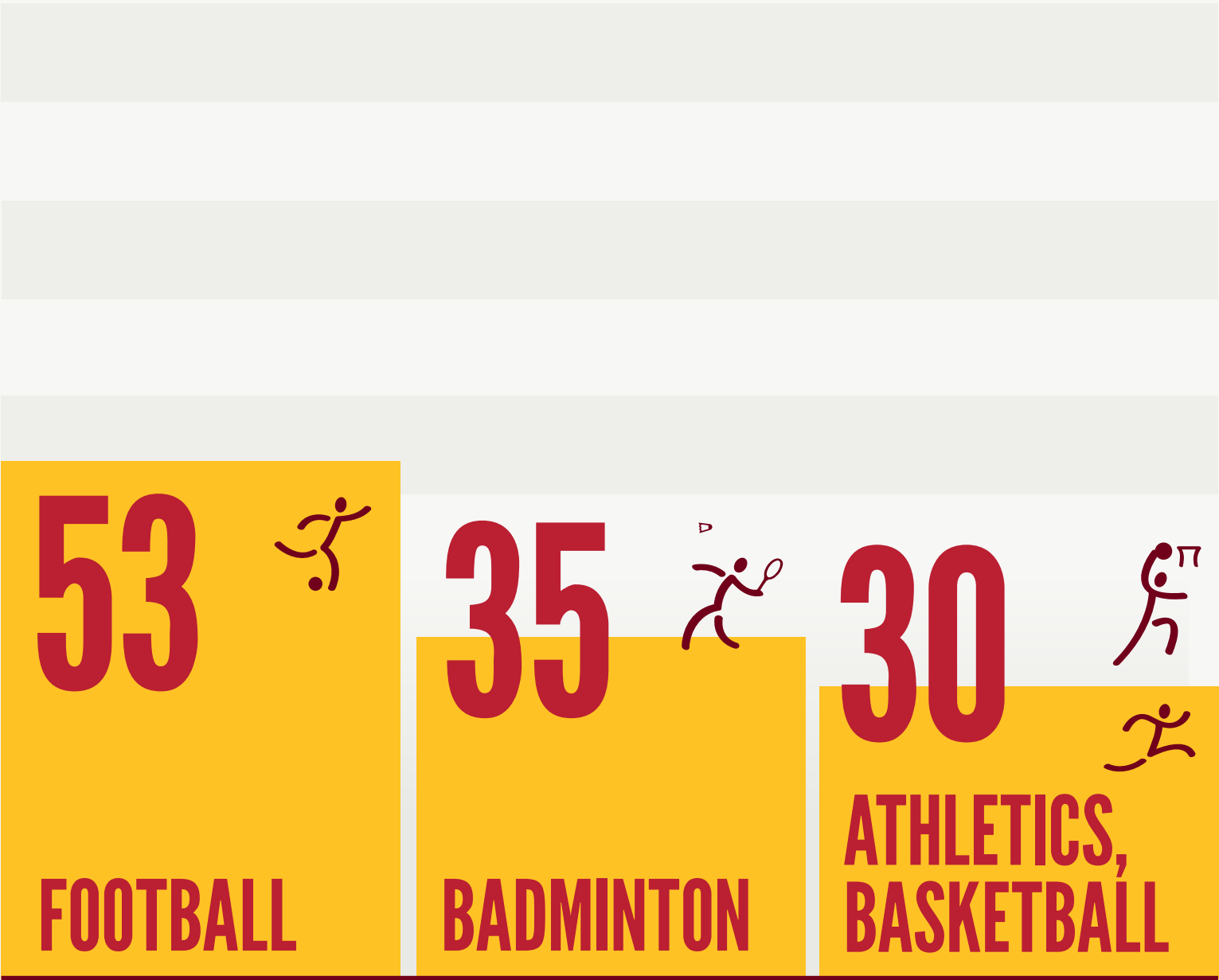
TOP SPORTS BY NUMBER OF FEDERATION PARTNERSHIPS (IF, RF, NF)



TOP SPORTS WHERE SOI HOLDS AN INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION PARTNERSHIP



MOST ENGAGED PARTNERSHIPS – SPORTS WITH THE MOST LEVEL 3 PARTNERSHIPS



SPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

WHERE
PARTNERSHIP
DEPTH MEETS
ATHLETE
GROWTH

FOOTBALL (SOCCER):
THE MOVEMENT’S DEEPEST
PARTNERSHIP BENCH



Football holds the highest number of Level 3 partnerships of any sport in the movement (53), more than any other sport, alongside the 2nd-highest participation numbers (472,893 athletes across 213 programs) and 99 total federation partnerships.

This combination of scale and partnership depth makes football the clearest example in the report of what ‘deep’ partnership looks like in practice: not just an agreement in place, but a federation relationship active across the majority of the ten collaboration areas this survey tracks.



ATHLETICS: SCALE MEETS
SUSTAINED INVESTMENT



Athletics leads the movement on every measure that matters: most programs (235), most athletes (nearly 1.5 million), most coaches (108,917), and the most federation partnerships of any sport (101).

This isn’t coincidental. Athletics’ position as the most universally accessible and federation-supported sport in the movement makes it the clearest proof point in this report that partnership scale and participation scale move together.

SPORT HIGHLIGHTS: WHERE PARTNERSHIP DEPTH MEETS ATHLETE GROWTH



BADMINTON: PARTNERSHIP DEPTH OUTPACING SCALE

Badminton ranks 8th among all sports by athlete participation, yet holds the 2nd-highest number of Level 3 partnerships (35) and the 5th-highest number of National Federation partnerships (67) of any sport in the movement.

This is no accident: Special Olympics has grown its badminton footprint from 83 to 103 countries in recent years, work driven directly by a strategic development plan with the Badminton World Federation. The result is a sport where partnership infrastructure is scaling ahead of participation, positioning badminton for continued athlete growth as that infrastructure matures.



SWIMMING: CONSISTENT GROWTH ACROSS EVERY MEASURE



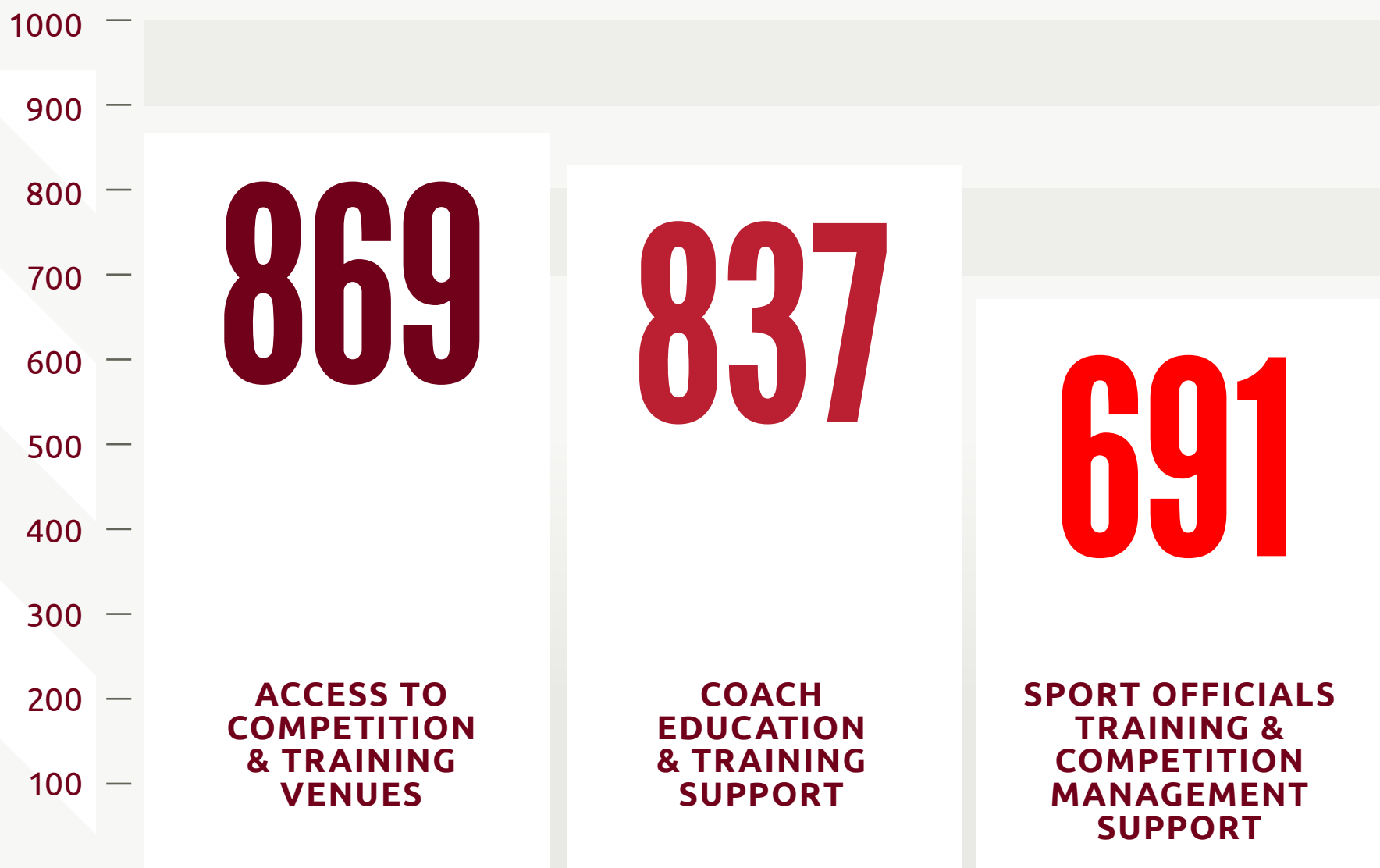
Swimming ranks in the top tier across the board, 198 programs, 232,443 athletes, and 74 federation partnerships, with 23 of those partnerships reaching Level 3 depth.

It's also one of the sports named among the top three by athlete participation in many of the region-by-region breakdowns, underscoring that swimming's partnership strength isn't concentrated in one region but distributed across the movement.

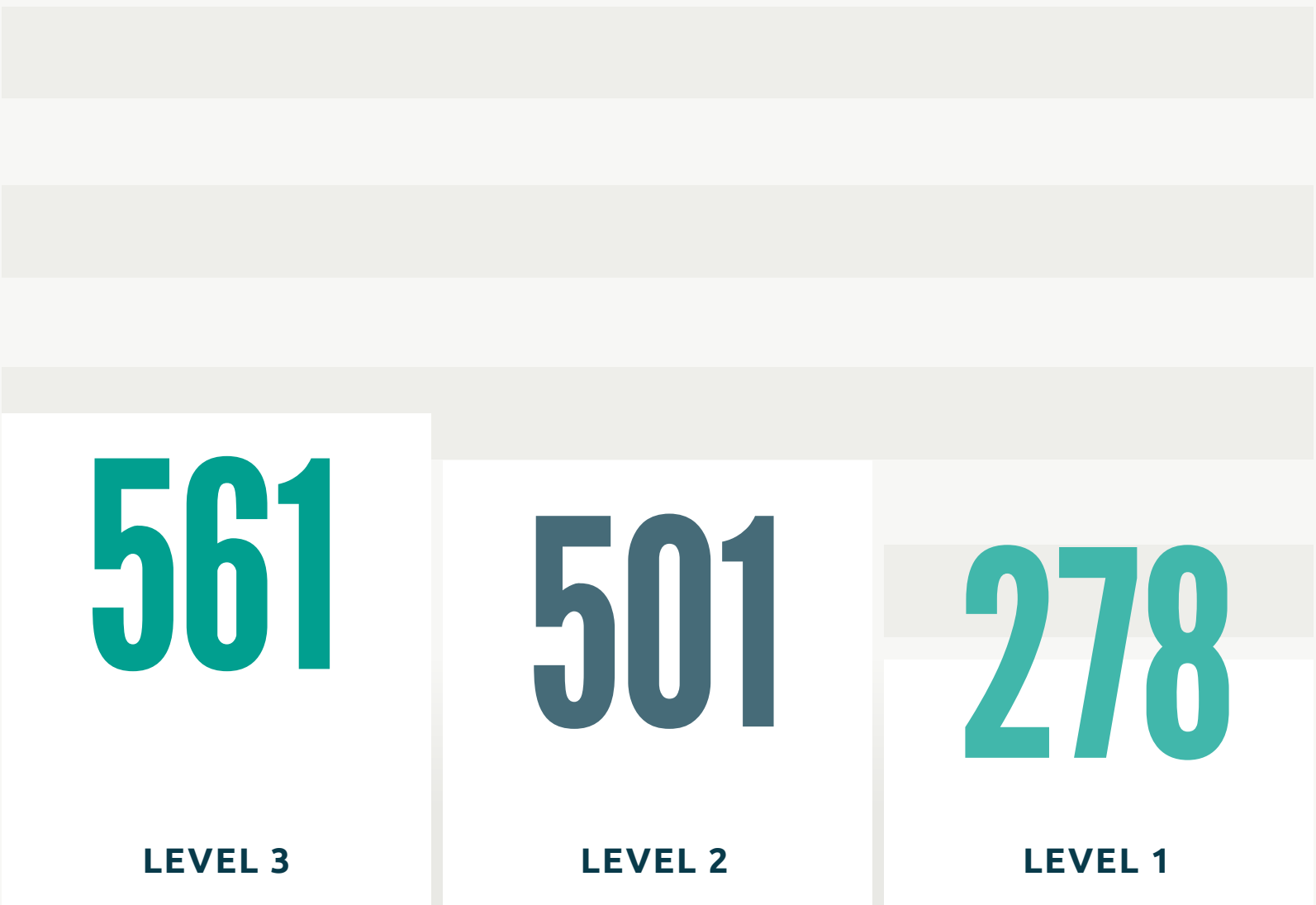


ENGAGEMENT AREAS & PARTNERSHIP COMPOSITION

TOP ENGAGEMENT AREAS



PARTNERSHIP LEVELS (DISTRIBUTION)



GOVERNMENT & MULTI- SPORT BODY ENGAGEMENT

NOC & NPC PARTNERSHIPS

76 National Programs report an active partnership with their National Olympic Committee, and 40 report a partnership with their National Paralympic Committee.

SPORT MINISTRY ENGAGEMENT

Of the 127 National Programs that report a partnership with their national Sport Ministry, an estimated \$9.5–9.9 million in combined direct and in-kind government support was identified. Of these, 57 programs reported receiving direct financial support, and 40 provided a specific figure — together totaling approximately \$8.6–9 million USD in reported annual and multi-year funding.

76

Programs report an active partnership with their National Olympic Committee.

40

Programs report a partnership with their National Paralympic Committee.

127 of 163

Programs report a partnership with their national Sport Ministry.

57

Programs reported receiving direct financial support.



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**“ OF THE 127 NATIONAL PROGRAMS
THAT REPORT A PARTNERSHIP WITH
THEIR NATIONAL SPORT MINISTRY,
AN ESTIMATED \$9.5–9.9 MILLION
IN COMBINED DIRECT AND IN-KIND
GOVERNMENT SUPPORT WAS IDENTIFIED. ”**

REGIONAL DEEP-DIVE

SPECIAL OLYMPICS AFRICA

Africa posted strong response and partnership density relative to its program count, with Cote d'Ivoire, Namibia, South Africa, and Kenya anchoring the highest partnership totals in the region. Coach education and competition access dominate the engagement mix, and athletics leads clearly among sports.



PROGRAMS WITH THE MOST PARTNERSHIPS

COTE D'IVOIRE

17

NAMIBIA

12

SOUTH AFRICA & KENYA

11

TOP ENGAGEMENT AREAS

COACH EDUCATION & TRAINING 112

ACCESS TO COMPETITION & TRAINING VENUES 104

SPORT OFFICIALS TRAINING & COMPETITION SUPPORT 81

TOP SPORTS

ATHLETICS

20



FOOTBALL

11

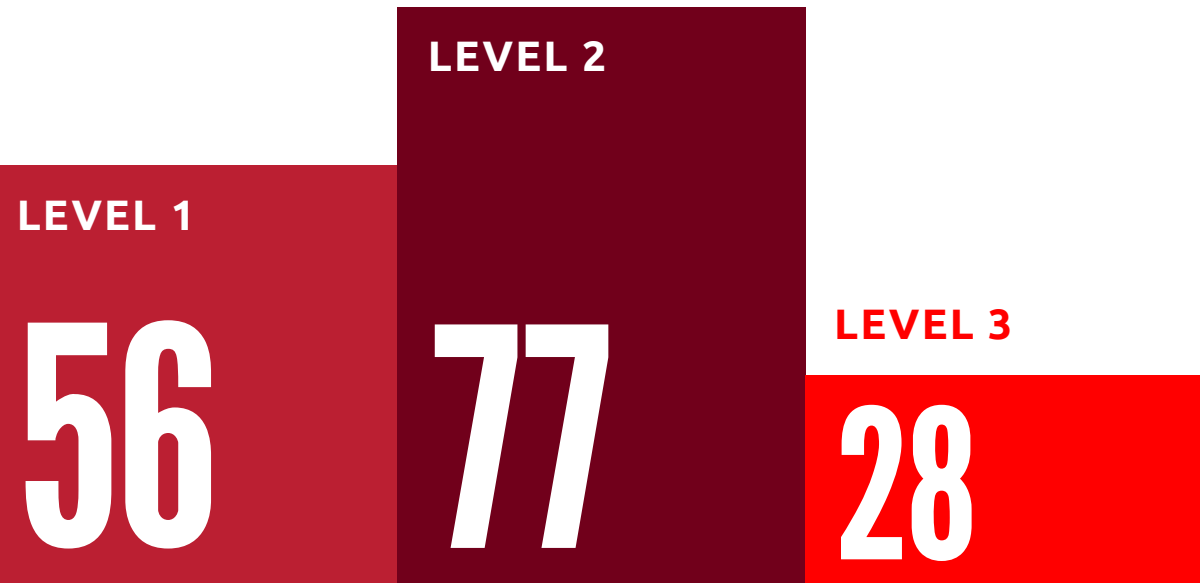


BASKETBALL

11



LEVELS



36

Total program responses



167

Number of partnerships

NOC / NPC / SPORT MINISTRY:

16 NOC

7 NPC

30 SPORT MINISTRY

REGIONAL DEEP-DIVE

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ASIA PACIFIC

Asia Pacific combines a solid national base with a small number of regional partnerships, led by Australia, Bangladesh, and New Zealand. Coach education and officials training are the most common forms of engagement, with athletics, football, and badminton the top sports.



PROGRAMS WITH THE MOST PARTNERSHIPS

AUSTRALIA

14

BANGLADESH

13

NEW ZEALAND

12

TOP ENGAGEMENT AREAS

COACH EDUCATION & TRAINING 102

SPORT OFFICIALS TRAINING & COMPETITION SUPPORT 86

ACCESS TO COMPETITION & TRAINING VENUES 85

TOP SPORTS

ATHLETICS

17



FOOTBALL

16



BADMINTON

9



LEVELS



26

Total program responses



146*

Number of partnerships

NOC / NPC / SPORT MINISTRY:

8 NOC

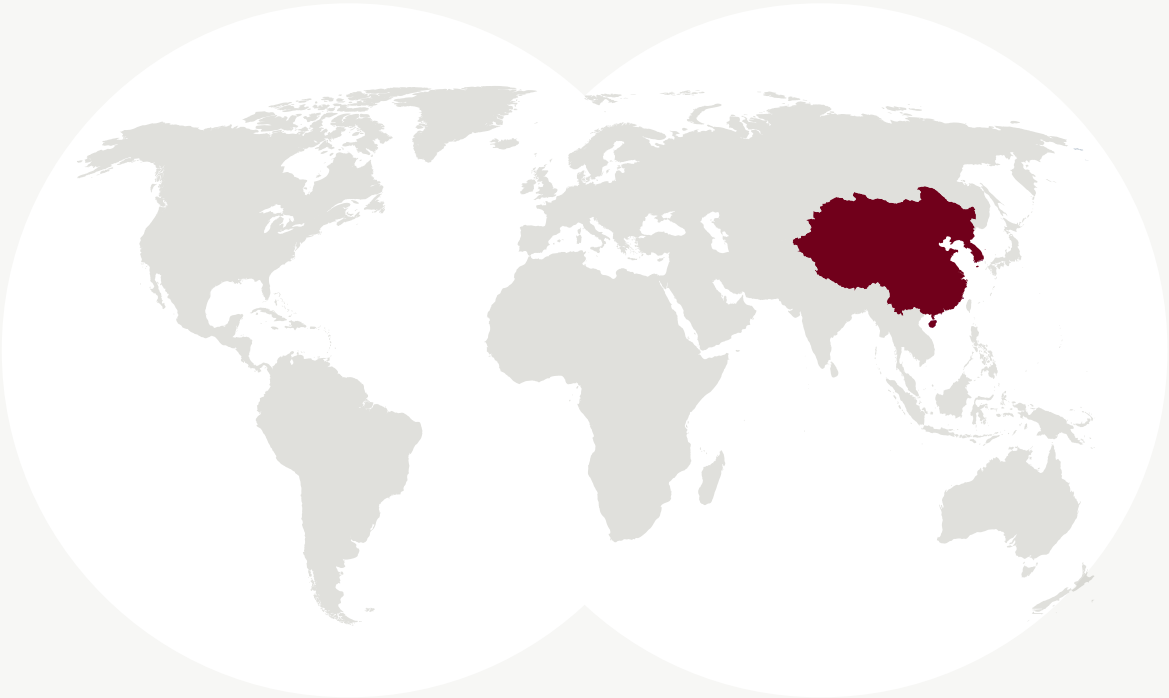
5 NPC

21 SPORT MINISTRY

REGIONAL DEEP-DIVE

SPECIAL OLYMPICS EAST ASIA

East Asia is the smallest region with just 6 programs and shows a notably level-1-heavy partnership profile compared to other regions. Mongolia, Hong Kong, and Macau carry the bulk of partnerships, with swimming and a cluster of racquet/team sports tied for top partnerships.



PROGRAMS WITH THE MOST PARTNERSHIPS

MONGOLIA



HONG KONG



MACAU



TOP ENGAGEMENT AREAS

ACCESS TO COMPETITION & TRAINING VENUES	19
COACH EDUCATION & TRAINING	18
SPORT OFFICIALS TRAINING & COMPETITION SUPPORT	15

TOP SPORTS

SWIMMING



ATHLETICS, BADMINTON, TABLE TENNIS, BASKETBALL



LEVELS



6

Total program responses



45

Number of partnerships

2 Regional
43 National

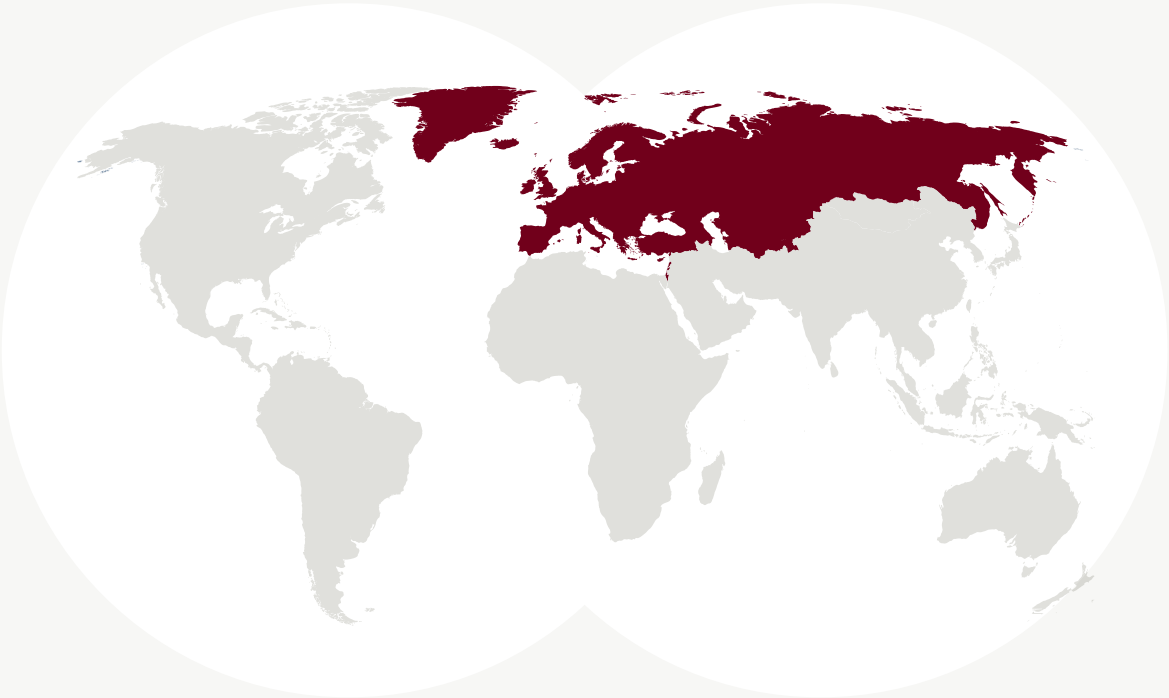
NOC / NPC / SPORT MINISTRY:

8	NOC
5	NPC
21	SPORT MINISTRY

REGIONAL DEEP-DIVE

SPECIAL OLYMPICS EUROPE EURASIA

Europe Eurasia is by far the largest and most partnership-dense region, with 55 programs reporting nearly 600 partnerships combined. Germany, the Netherlands, and Finland lead individual program totals, and the region shows the most even spread across all three partnership levels of any region.



PROGRAMS WITH THE MOST PARTNERSHIPS

GERMANY

34

NETHERLANDS

30

FINLAND

27

TOP ENGAGEMENT AREAS

COACH EDUCATION & TRAINING

313

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

288

ACCESS TO COMPETITION & TRAINING VENUES

346

TOP SPORTS

FOOTBALL

44



BASKETBALL

35



SWIMMING

32



LEVELS

LEVEL 1

133

LEVEL 2

221

LEVEL 3

223



55

Total program responses



593

Number of partnerships

16 Regional
577 National

NOC / NPC / SPORT MINISTRY:

28

NOC

17

NPC

39

SPORT MINISTRY

REGIONAL DEEP-DIVE

SPECIAL OLYMPICS LATIN AMERICA

Latin America shows a healthy mix of regional and national partnerships, led by Cuba, Costa Rica, and a tie between Puerto Rico and Paraguay. Access to competition and training venues is the clear top engagement area, and badminton edges out football as the leading sport.



PROGRAMS WITH THE MOST PARTNERSHIPS

CUBA



COSTA RICA



PUERTO RICO & PARAGUAY



TOP ENGAGEMENT AREAS

ACCESS TO COMPETITION & TRAINING VENUES	150
COACH EDUCATION & TRAINING	127
SPORT EQUIPMENT	99

TOP SPORTS

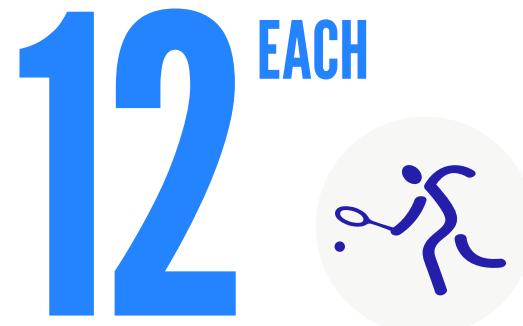
BADMINTON



FOOTBALL



TENNIS & BASKETBALL



LEVELS



20

Total program responses



190

Number of partnerships

23 Regional
167 National

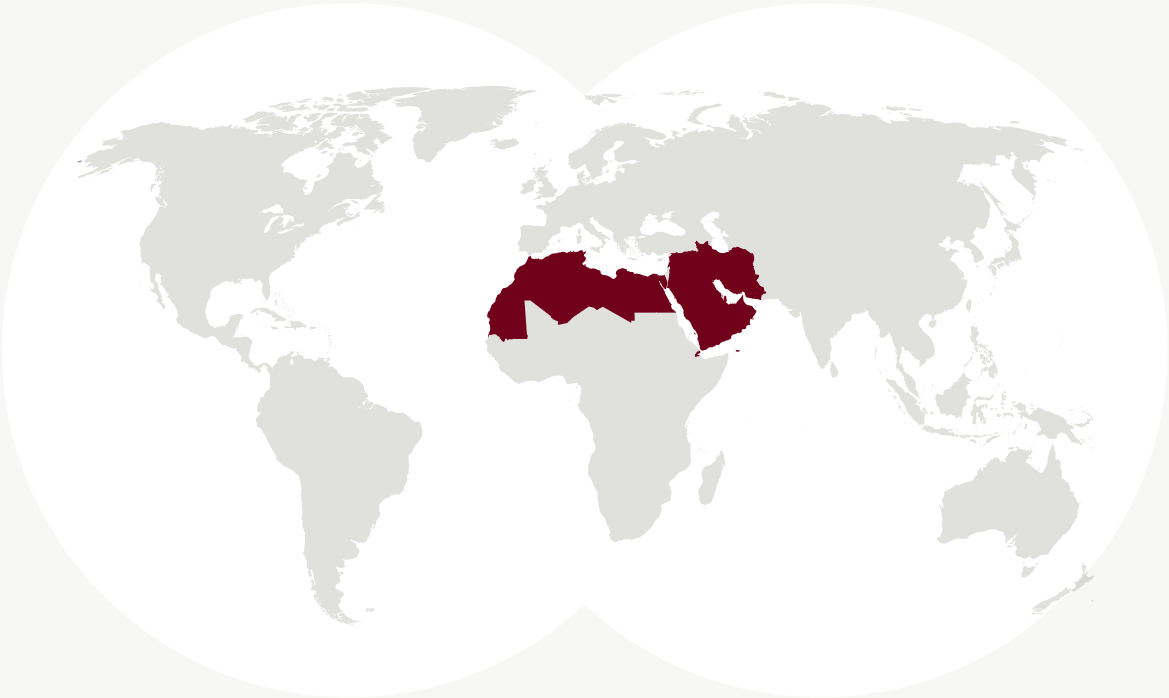
NOC / NPC / SPORT MINISTRY:

9	NOC
5	NPC
15	SPORT MINISTRY

REGIONAL DEEP-DIVE

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICA

MENA’s 13 responding programs skew heavily toward Level 3 partnerships, with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain leading in partnership count. Access to competition and training venues tops the engagement list, and athletics is the standout sport.



PROGRAMS WITH THE MOST PARTNERSHIPS

UAE



SAUDI ARABIA



BAHRAIN



TOP ENGAGEMENT AREAS

ACCESS TO COMPETITION & TRAINING VENUES	85
SPORT OFFICIALS TRAINING & COMPETITION SUPPORT	74
COACH EDUCATION & TRAINING	65

TOP SPORTS

ATHLETICS



BASKETBALL



TABLE TENNIS



LEVELS



13

Total program responses



92*

Number of partnerships

* National Partnerships

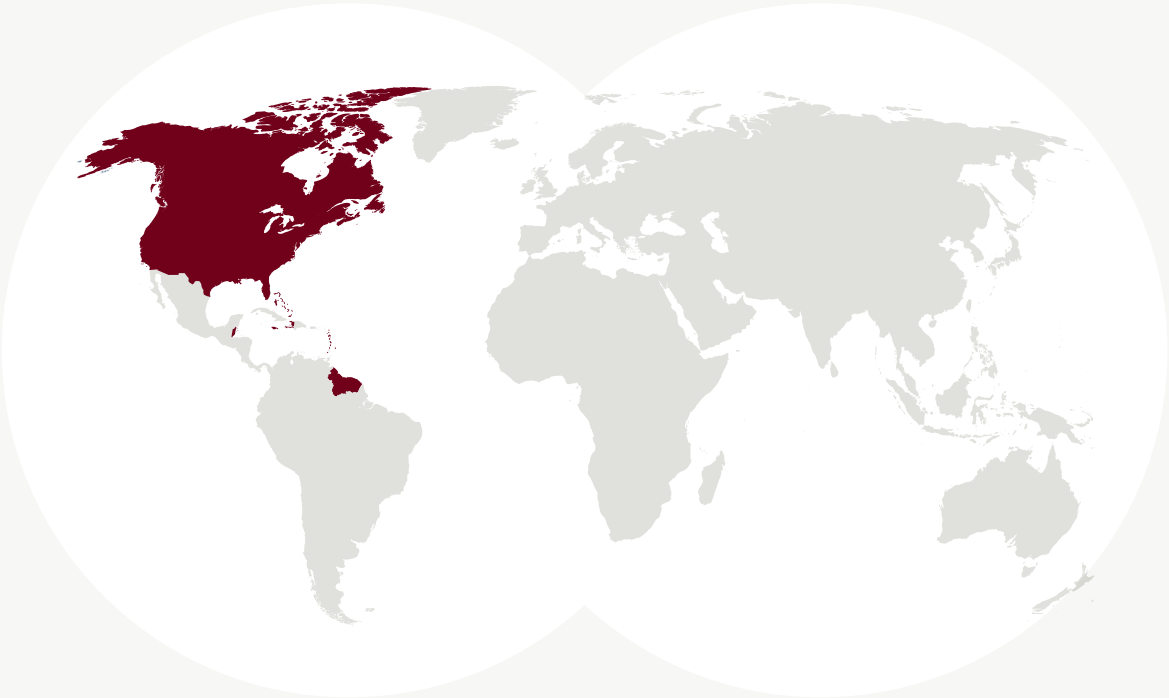
NOC / NPC / SPORT MINISTRY:

4	NOC
3	NPC
6	SPORT MINISTRY

REGIONAL DEEP-DIVE

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTH AMERICA

North America’s 22 responses include one consolidated submission covering US Sport Federations, since individual State programs aren’t surveyed separately. Guadeloupe, Canada, and Jamaica lead in partnerships, with coach education the top engagement area and this region reporting zero National Paralympic Committee partnerships.



PROGRAMS WITH THE MOST PARTNERSHIPS

GUADELOUPE



CANADA



JAMAICA



TOP SPORTS

ATHLETICS



SWIMMING



FOOTBALL



TOP ENGAGEMENT AREAS

COACH EDUCATION & TRAINING

84

ACCESS TO COMPETITION & TRAINING VENUES

75

SPORT OFFICIALS TRAINING & COMPETITION SUPPORT

70

LEVELS



NOC / NPC / SPORT MINISTRY:



22*

Total program responses

* Includes one consolidated



122*

Number of partnerships

* National Partnerships

CONCLUSION

The numbers in this report tell a consistent story: Special Olympics sport partnerships are not a peripheral initiative, they are a growing, self-reinforcing part of how the movement delivers sport.

In seven years, participation in the survey has nearly doubled, from 85 programs in 2018 to 163 in 2025, and national-level partnerships have grown from 528 to 1,311 over the same period. This year alone brought a 9.3% increase in national partnerships and a 13.7% increase in estimated Value-in-Kind, now totaling \$8.37 million.

But the real measure of this work isn't in the totals, it's in what those partnerships make possible. Seventy-one National Programs told us that without a federation partnership, at least one sport they currently offer simply wouldn't exist. Two hundred ninety individual sport offerings, spanning 44 unique sports, trace directly back to a partnership. Behind every Level 1, 2, or 3 designation is a coach trained, a venue opened, a uniform provided, because a federation chose to show up.

The regional data shows where this model is thriving, Europe Eurasia's depth of partnership per program, Latin America's regional connectivity, East Asia's directional promise, and where the movement has room to grow, particularly in strengthening government-level engagement outside the regions where Sport Ministry partnerships are already well established. As sport federations worldwide lean further into inclusion and social impact, Special Olympics is positioned to build on this momentum: not by starting new relationships from scratch, but by deepening the ones already proving what's possible for athletes who would otherwise be shut out.

**AS SPORT FEDERATIONS
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TO BUILD ON THIS MOMENTUM.**

“...THE REAL MEASURE OF THIS WORK ISN'T IN THE TOTALS, IT'S IN WHAT THOSE PARTNERSHIPS MAKE POSSIBLE. SEVENTY-ONE NATIONAL PROGRAMS TOLD US THAT WITHOUT A FEDERATION PARTNERSHIP, AT LEAST ONE SPORT THEY CURRENTLY OFFER SIMPLY WOULDN'T EXIST.”

***Special
Olympics***



DATA SOURCES

Special Olympics Inc. Global Census
Special Olympics Inc. Annual Sport
Partnership Survey

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