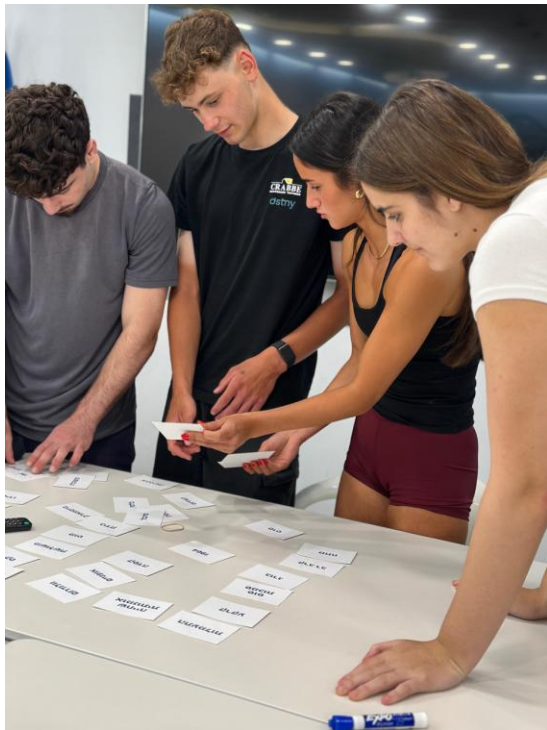


Newsletter 365 – MAY 2026

An Experiential Enrichment Day for Olympic Classroom Athletes

As part of the Olympic Classroom program, 29 outstanding young athletes receive medical support through the Daniel Howard Foundation. Alongside medical care, participants also take part in enrichment sessions inspired by Olympic values, as part of a broader framework supporting both their athletic and personal development.

During this month's session, the athletes participated in an interactive "Amazing Race"-style activity, working through a variety of team challenges focused on Olympic values, Olympic knowledge, teamwork, creative thinking, and fair play. The activity combined experiential learning with healthy competition and encouraged cooperation, determination, and communication among participants. The Olympic Classroom is a first-of-its-kind educational framework in Israel, enabling young athletes pursuing excellence in elite sport to continue their academic studies within a full educational program.



Olympic Stars Shine Bright

Each month, Olympic squad athletes continue to take part in joint activities with children from the Children and Youth Sports and Wellness Center at Meir Medical Center. This month, representatives from Israel's rugby community joined the initiative: Guy "Smiley" Dotan, former

captain of Israel's national team, Gilad Vardi, Israel national team player, and Noam Tshuva, from the Menashe Mammoths Rugby Club.

Throughout the activity, the children were introduced to the world of rugby through games, drills, and a full team match. The session encouraged teamwork, communication, decision-making, and perseverance. These direct encounters with athletes from the world of sport continue to strengthen the children's confidence while providing inspiration and positive energy.



Alonimpiad – An Olympic Day at Alonim Sha'ar HaNegev School

A festive peak-day event marked the completion of the first year of the Olympism program at Alonim School in Sha'ar HaNegev, held in partnership with the Azrieli Foundation's SSI Program. More than 400 students took part in a full day of sport and educational activities.

Students rotated through stations led by athletes and coaches including Yuval Freilich, Girma Amare, Alon Azulay, Shahar Kleiner, Ori Mizrahi, and Gal Hamrani. The activities featured fencing, judo, frisbee, athletics, baseball, archery, and goalball, combining physical activity with Olympic values. The day opened in the presence of SSI founder Danny Hakim, Olympic Committee of Israel CEO Adi Bichman, and Olympic medalist Arik Ze'evi. The program continues to strengthen the connection between sport, education, and community while creating meaningful and empowering experiences for students throughout the year.



Beyond the Rings – A Special Workshop for National Coaches

The Olympic Committee of Israel created and developed “Beyond the Rings”, a unique Olympism workshop designed to give young athletes an opportunity to pause from daily training and competition and explore the values at the heart of the Olympic Movement, including fair play, anti-doping, safeguarding in sport, and the legacy of the eleven Munich victims.

The workshops are led by senior athletes from the same sporting disciplines, creating an intergenerational connection that strengthens continuity, inspiration, and belonging within the Olympic community. As part of the Committee’s commitment to expanding the initiative’s impact, a dedicated workshop was held for coaches participating in Israel’s national coaching program, “The Podium,” providing practical tools for independent implementation in the field. Given the close relationship coaches maintain with athletes, the training highlighted the importance of equipping them through interactive and experiential learning.



The Green Ring – Olympic Sustainability Forum

As part of “**The Green Ring**,” the Olympic Committee of Israel’s sustainability forum, a new initiative promoting social impact through sport in Israel was launched with the support of the Azrieli and Maale Foundations.

The initiative is based on the belief that sport can serve as a powerful tool for social change, reducing gaps, strengthening community resilience, and improving wellbeing, health, and education. Its goal is to promote a more equal, inclusive, and connected society through partnerships between sports organizations, businesses, and social impact organizations. By combining Olympic values with principles of corporate responsibility, the initiative will map existing models and best practices from Israel and abroad, create professional training opportunities and partnerships, and develop innovative projects aimed at generating meaningful social impact through sport.

