Olympism 365

October 2026

Olympic Stars Shine Bright

This month, the children at the Children and Youth Sports and Wellness Center at Meir Medical Center met members of Israel's rhythmic gymnastics team: Olympic silver medalist Ofir Shaham, Agam Gev, Sofia Prezhyn, Keren Sobol, Avigail Shved, and Emilia Roitman. The gymnasts led an engaging activity that introduced the children to the world of rhythmic gymnastics, a sport that combines flexibility, coordination, precision, and movement. Throughout the session, the children practiced rhythmic gymnastics exercises, participated in activities with hoops, and explored various skills associated with the sport and got to know the gymnasts. The activity was accompanied by plenty of smiles, positive energy, and enthusiasm.



Sport Is in My Soul

As part of the ongoing collaboration between the Olympic Committee of Israel and the nonprofit organization Zeh Benafshi (It’s in my soul), meetings between athletes and young people in psychiatric inpatient units have been taking place for the third consecutive year. The initiative aims to raise awareness of mental health and reduce the stigma surrounding it. This month, beach volleyball players Kevin Kuzmiciov and Eylon Elazar met with the youth, sharing their personal experiences and journeys in the world of sport. Through their stories, the participants gained insight into the challenges, successes, and setbacks athletes encounter, as well as the importance of perseverance, determination, and believing in one's ability to overcome difficulties. The meeting provided an opportunity for open and meaningful dialogue, highlighting the values shared by sport and the challenges of everyday life.



Dakar 2026 Delegation Team-Building Day

Ahead of Israel's participation in the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, athletes and staff members gathered for an engaging team-building day designed to strengthen relationships, a sense of belonging, and team spirit before departing for the Games. Throughout the day, the

athletes took part in interactive stations featuring Olympic-themed quizzes and activities. The challenges encouraged creative thinking, teamwork, and cooperation, giving participants from different sports an opportunity to get to know one another.

The athletes also enjoyed an inspiring encounter with Gili Haimovitz, The taekwondo gold medalist from the first Youth Olympic Games held in Singapore 2010, who shared his personal experiences and offered motivation and valuable insights ahead of the challenges awaiting them. The team-building day combined learning, enjoyment, and meaningful connections among delegation members, while reinforcing the Olympic values of excellence, respect, and friendship.



The Olympic Spirit Between the Waves

Representatives of the Olympic Committee of Israel, members of the Olympic sailing team, and current and former Olympic athletes, including Tom Reuveny, Eli Zuckerman, Nofar Edelman, Shay Kakon, Nitai Hasson, and Eyal Levin, participated in a special volunteer day organized by the nonprofit organization "Bayit Al Hayam" (A Home by the Sea) at Acadia Beach in Herzliya.

The activity was initiated by windsurfer Tomer Vardimon, who has volunteered regularly with the organization for the past six years. Throughout the day, the athletes took to the water and surfed alongside children with special needs and their families, sharing an experience of connection, joy, and empowerment. The event concluded with a group reflection session and a festive Kabbalat Shabbat gathering.

"Bayit Al Hayam", supported by the SSI Program by the Azrieli Foundation Israel, works to strengthen communities through the sea, providing support to diverse populations. The activity

reflected the Olympic Committee of Israel's commitment to promoting social engagement and harnessing the positive impact of sport beyond the competitive arena.



Sport, Business, and Social Responsibility

A new initiative connecting sports federations with leading companies in Israel has been launched through a collaboration between the Olympic Committee of Israel, the SSI Program by the Azrieli Foundation Israel, and Maala, with the aim of advancing joint social impact initiatives.

The program began with a professional development workshop titled "Sport, Business, and Social Responsibility," attended by representatives of 16 sports federations and Israel's three umbrella sports organizations: the Olympic Committee of Israel, the Israel Paralympic Committee, and the Ayelet Federation. The initiative seeks to expand partnerships beyond the traditional sponsorship model.

The program will focus on developing partnerships in four key areas: investment in community sports programs, donations of products and services, employee volunteering, and promoting physical activity in the workplace. The initiative reflects a commitment to harnessing the power of sport to advance equal opportunities, strengthen communities, and create lasting social impact.

