

National Paralympic Committee

The Cyprus National Paralympic Committee is the national constituent of the worldwide Paralympic movement and is subject to the controls of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). It is responsible for organising the participation of Cypriot athletes in the Paralympic Games.

The Paralympic Games are a major international multi-sport event where athletes with physical disabilities including mobility disabilities, compete. There are Winter and Summer Paralympic Games, which are held immediately after the Olympic Games.

Swimmer Karolina Pelendritou has represented Cyprus in many competitions and has won many medals. These include the gold medal in the 100m breaststroke at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens where Karolina won with a new Paralympic record.

Other achievements include a gold medal in the Eurowaves (European Cup) 2008 in the 100m breaststroke with a new world record and in the 2008 Beijing Paralympics. In the Beijing Paralympics Games she also won a bronze medal in the 200m individual medley.

More achievements have also been recorded by the athlete Antonis Aresti, who received several medals including silver medals in the 400m and 200m track races in the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games.

Special Olympics

The Special Olympics Cyprus was inaugurated in 1986. It is a member of Special Olympics International and of the Cyprus Olympic Committee. It is recognised as the athletic organisation responsible for athletes with mental disabilities. It is a non-profit institution and its activities and games are organised by volunteers.

More than 400 athletes with mental and/or severe learning abilities train in sports such as swimming, cycling, basketball, football, gymnastics, riding, bowling, floor hockey, and sports for the handicapped. Athletes from Cyprus have won medals in European and world Sports events.