



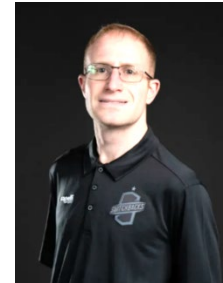
# Board Member Biography

## YARIV BEN-NAIM

**TITLE / ROLE:** Board Member | Co-Vice Chairman / Co-Founder

**BOARD TENURE** 2026 - Present

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### Professional Background

Yariv Ben-Naim is the Unified Special Olympics Switchbacks Team Manager and Player-Coach, and the Project Inspire Team Coordinator for the Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC. A Special Olympics athlete since 2011 and a UCCS graduate, Yariv helped launch the first Unified Special Olympics Soccer Team in the USL Championship league and has helped expand Unified Sports through partnerships with MLS and USL clubs nationwide. He also supports the Switchbacks' office with sponsor outreach and community engagement. Yariv is a respected ambassador for inclusion, inspiring others by showing what people with disabilities can achieve when given meaningful opportunities.

### Connection to the Mission

Yariv is connected to the mission through his personal journey with autism. Early in life he was told of all the things that he would not be able to do because of his diagnosis, and that he would struggle with language and communication and assimilation and that he would be limited in the areas he could be involved in. Yariv and his parents, set out to prove everyone wrong. The world underestimates the abilities of people with special needs. While they may look different, speak differently, or even behave differently, Yariv always had the belief that people with disabilities can do anything when surrounded by great teachers, great mentors, and people who believe in you. Yariv was lucky to have those people in his life, and he wants to be able to be a part of building that for others. He leads by example, showing how when you are surrounded by people who believe in you, that you can achieve great things, and when you belong and succeed, you are empowered to give back and help others reach their fullest potential too.

### Board Responsibilities & Contributions

As Co-Chair and Co-Founder, Yariv helps guide the strategic direction of the organization, strengthens partnerships, and supports the development of inclusive programs for individuals with special needs. He provides leadership rooted in lived experience, ensures the mission stays centered on empowerment and inclusion, and represents the organization through public relations and community engagement

### Community & Volunteer Involvement

Yariv is actively involved in the Special Olympics community, mentoring athletes, supporting Unified programs, and volunteering at events that promote inclusion and awareness. He regularly engages with local partners, schools, and organizations to strengthen community connections and expand opportunities for individuals with special needs.

### Skills & Areas of Expertise

Yariv brings expertise in bringing people together, inspiring people, leadership, program development, and community engagement. He excels in building partnerships, coordinating inclusive events, and fostering strong relationships across teams, sponsors, and community organizations.