



MACCABIUSA MEDAL OF HONOR



RICKY REFF

Ricky Reff has been a transformative leader in Maccabi USA for nearly four decades. His service began at the 12th Maccabiah in 1985, where he introduced the first athletic trainer program while serving as an orthopedic surgeon. He went on to co-author the governance of what became the JCC Maccabi Games, serve as Medical Chairman and Team Physician for multiple Maccabiot and Pan American Games, and helped facilitate the organizational transition to “Maccabi USA Sports for Israel.” Ricky also became Maccabi USA’s first liaison to the U.S. Olympic Committee, later serving on the USOC Medical Committee.



Throughout the 1990s and 2000s, Ricky held key medical and safety leadership roles at every major Maccabi event including Chief Medical Officer, International Medical Chairman, and Head of International Safety and Security Committees, culminating in continued service through the 20th Maccabiah in 2017. He also co-led delegations with his wife, Jodi Reff, to the European and Maccabi Australia Games. Recognized with the Yakir Maccabi Award and multiple “Legend of the Maccabiah” honors, Ricky’s enduring dedication and vision have significantly advanced athlete welfare and strengthened the global Maccabi movement.