Shimon Mizrahi, chairman of the board of the Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball club and 2011 Israel Prize laureate for sports, is among the most influential figures in advancing Israeli sports in general and Israeli basketball in particular. His contribution to basketball in Israel has yielded unprecedented results and placed Israel in the center of the international map. Shimon Mizrahi's devotion and dedication to building up sports in Israel is demonstrated by the many roles he fulfills on a voluntary basis: senior substitute chairman of the Israeli basketball association; Olympic committee member; Maccabi central committee member; member of two key committees for FIBA; member of FIBA's legal committee; and Euroleague executive board member.

Born in Tel Aviv in 1939, Shimon Mizrahi was named after his grandfather, one of the first residents of Neve Tzedek. His great love for the Maccabi Tel Aviv association was kindled in his childhood by his father, who was an outstanding athlete in the association's tennis and football clubs. Shimon Mizrahi served in the Israel Defense Forces' criminal investigation division, earning the rank of colonel. He continues to serve in the reserves to this day. In addition, the minister of defense and the chief of general staff appointed him the special liaison with the family of missing soldier Guy Hever, a position that he fulfills voluntarily.

Shimon Mizrahi studied law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and developed a career as a lawyer. Since 1979, he has been a principal of the S. Mizrahi-B. Arnon law firm, which specializes in civil law.

In the summer of 1969, upon his appointment to the chairmanship of the Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball club, Shimon Mizrahi immediately took creative steps to enable the club, then coping with various challenges, to become financially sound. Under his management, Maccabi Tel Aviv accrued victories unprecedented in Israel and Europe, winning 38 national championships, 28 state cup titles, and five European cup championships. One of the most significant, dramatic and memorable of Maccabi's victories, was against CSKA Moscow in 1977, a time when Jews were still under the Iron Curtain.

Mizrahi's widespread connections in the European basketball world and the high esteem professionals have for him, earned him a position of influence and the status of a decision maker. Thanks to that and his great efforts, Maccabi Tel Aviv's Euroleague games were played in Israel even during the intifadah. His patriotic Zionist spirit was reflected throughout the years, especially this year when he headed the lobby, which influenced heads of the Euroleague to schedule the final game ahead of time, in order not to harm the sanctity of the Memorial Day for Israeli soldiers.

Shimon Mizrahi was selected to carry a torch at the 2004 Independence Day ceremony for his contribution to Israeli sports. In 2007, Time magazine named him one of the 50 best sports executives in the world.

In recognition of his distinctive contribution to advancing Israeli sports in general and basketball in particular, as demonstrated by his actions on a daily basis, his dedication, and the great resources, time and energy he has invested over many years, Shimon Mizrahi is hereby named an Honorary Fellow of the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya.