

## **Special Olympics Athlete Eligibility Guidelines**

- Special Olympics training and competition is open to every person with an intellectual disability
- Special Olympics athletes must be 8 years old to compete; (the Young Athletes program may be available for ages 2-7)
- A person is considered to have an intellectual disability if that person satisfies any one of the following requirements
  1. the person has been identified by an agency/professional as having an intellectual disability as determined by their localities.
  2. the person has a cognitive delay, as determined by the standardized measures such as intelligent quotient (IQ)
  3. the person has a closely related developmental disability meaning the person has functional limitations in both general learning and adaptive skills such as in recreation, work, independent living, self-discretion and self-care.
- Persons whose functional limitations are based solely on a physical, behavioral, or emotional disability or specific learning or sensory disability are NOT eligible to participate in Special Olympics.
- Special Olympics athletes must register to participate in Special Olympics as required by the Special Olympics official General Rules:
  - Submission of a completed athlete registration form, which contains registration information, medical information and a medical certificate
  - Submission of a completed athlete release form, which contains a release to be signed by an adult athlete or by the parent/guardian of a minor athlete concerning medical matters and permissions concerning publicity
  - If applicable, a special release form for athletes or parents having religious objections to the provisions in the athlete release form concerning authorization for emergency medical treatment
  - If applicable, a special release form for athletes or parents concerning the potential risks of Atlanto-axial instability in athletes with Down syndrome