

Athlete Registration Guidelines

Updated 2024

To register or re-register as a Special Olympics athletes complete the following:

- **Registration Form:** listing contact and other information, completed by athlete and or guardian.
Additional athlete registration forms include:
 - Young Athletes Registration and Release Forms
 - Young Athletes School Registration Forms
- **Release Form:** use of likenesses, emergency medical care, consent for health program participation, personal information, and other important details, completed by athlete and or guardian.
- **Optional Likeness Release for Sponsors:** Optionally allow Special Olympics sponsors to use photos, videos, and stories, completed by athlete and or guardian.
- **Medical Form:** Identify health concerns and clear an athlete to participate.
 - Health History section, completed by athlete and or guardian.
 - Physical Exam section, completed and signed by a licensed medical practitioner or physician.
 - Supplemental health and release forms available should additional specialized clearance be required. These may include Atlanto-Axial Instability special release, Emergency Medical Care refusal and Medial Referral forms.

SOI General Rules – Required Procedures:

Before participating in Special Olympics training and/or competition, an eligible person must register to participate in an Accredited Program. Registration as a Special Olympics athlete shall include the Registration Form, Release Form, Medical Form, and all additional optional and supplemental forms as needed. Special Olympics New York considers these forms valid for a period of three years from the date of the medical clearance. Release forms renewal is the responsibility of the athlete participant and should be updated every three years or when guardianship is amended.

Medical Form Guidance:

- Must be released and cleared to participate by a medical practitioner or physician within three years of expected participation.
- Training Club Head Coaches must collect and review the completed medical forms before athletes are allowed to begin any participation in Special Olympics activities (training or competition).
- The Medical Forms are valid for up to three (3) years.
- Training club Head Coaches are responsible for collecting and maintaining current medical forms for all athletes in the training club. A copy of the medial forms must be made, and the originals will be submitted to the regional office.
- Medical forms must travel with the athletes to all training practices and competitions. In the event of an injury these records must be made available for EMS Personnel.
- Athletes without a valid original medical form on file with the Regional Office will not be permitted to compete in Local, Regional or State competitions.

Release Form Guidance:

- All athletes are required to have an Athlete Release Form completed before they can participate in any Special Olympics activities (training or competition).
- Athlete Release Forms for minors (under 18 years of age) must be completed by a parent or guardian. The Athlete Release Form is valid for three years or until the athlete turns 18 years of age.
- Athlete Release Forms for Adults (18 +years of age) can be completed by the athlete if they are able to independently provide consent, or by a parent or guardian. This release form does not automatically expire once completed for an adult athlete. This should be reviewed, signed, and submitted every three years with the medical form.