



ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

According to the World Health Organization, intellectual disability is a condition of arrested or incomplete development of the mind characterized by impairment of skills and overall intelligence in areas such as cognition, language, and motor and social abilities. Intellectual disability can occur with or without any other physical or mental disorders. Although reduced level of intellectual functioning is the characteristic feature of this disorder, the diagnosis is made only if it is associated with a diminished ability to adapt to the daily demands of the normal social environment. (Visit www.who.int for more information.)

Special Olympics' range of services, from the Motor Activities Training Program to Unified Sports®, addresses the needs of individuals at their current functional level. Special Olympics is a valuable support system that recognizes differences and celebrates individual accomplishments.

Eligibility for Participation

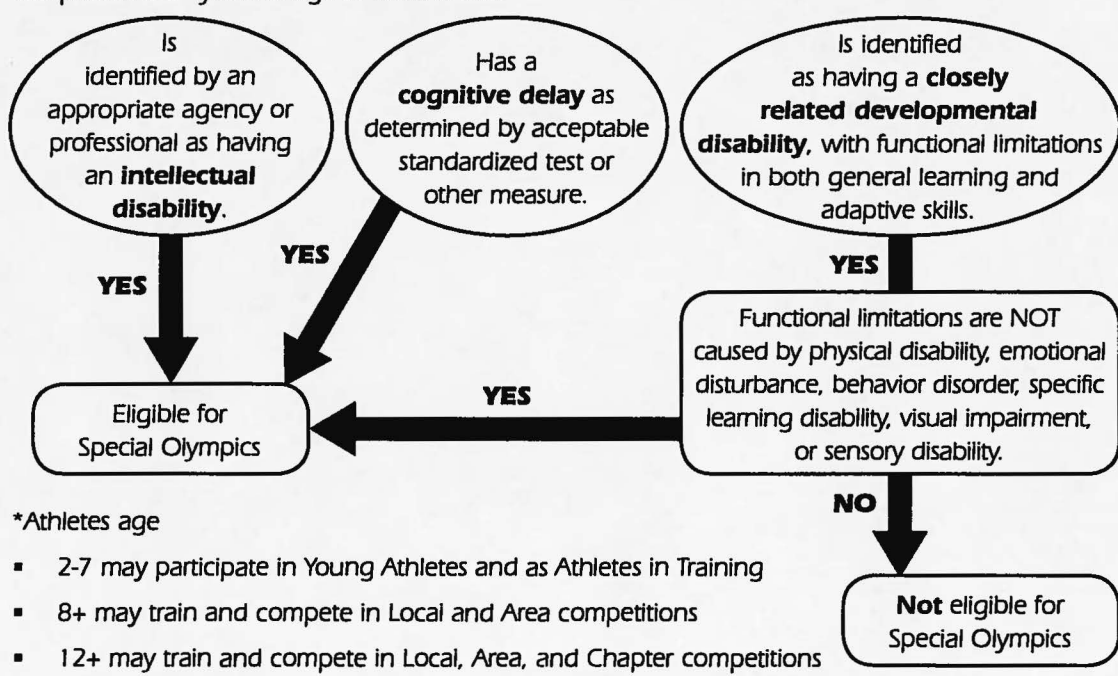
Special Olympics was created and developed to give individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to train and compete in sports activities. No person shall, on the grounds of gender, race, religion, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, and/or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of Special Olympics.

Athletes must compete in the area program and events within the geographical boundaries where they live. Coaches may petition their area program staff if they would like to compete in events outside their area boundaries. Athletes may not substitute their area's competition for another. Competing in another area's event is an option only to add additional competition opportunities. The area program staff will assist coaches in locating the next closest competition. An athlete must compete at the area level before advancing in the same sport to the chapter level.

Athletes must play to the best of their abilities, to provide for fair and equitable competition, and must adhere to sportsmanlike conduct.

Identification of Special Olympics Eligibility

The person is 2* years of age or older and...



*Athletes age

- 2-7 may participate in Young Athletes and as Athletes in Training
- 8+ may train and compete in Local and Area competitions
- 12+ may train and compete in Local, Area, and Chapter competitions