



## Special Olympics Mission

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

## Special Olympics South Carolina's Vision

The vision of Special Olympics South Carolina is to be the leader in lifelong and unified sports programs for individuals with intellectual disabilities, empowering athletes to be valued members of their community and respected members of society.

## Special Olympics South Carolina Program Structure

Special Olympics South Carolina is divided into 16 local Area Programs that are volunteer driven and led. These programs offer a variety of sports training and competition opportunities, as well as opportunities for advancement to Regional, State or higher-level competitions. Special Olympics South Carolina offers programs in 27 Olympic-type sports, with additional opportunities for development through Motor Activities Training Programs, Young Athlete Programs, Athlete Leadership Programs, and Special Olympics Health programs.

## Special Olympics Criteria for Participation

Special Olympics South Carolina serves children and adults with intellectual disabilities. In terms of criteria for participation, a person is considered to have an intellectual disability for purposes of determining his or her eligibility to participate in Special Olympics if that person satisfies any one of the following requirements:

1. The individual has been diagnosed with an intellectual disability by a medical professional or as determined by a government agency;
2. The person has a cognitive delay, as determined by standardized measures, including an intelligent quotient or "IQ" of 75 or lower;
3. The person has a significant developmental delay, as determined by standardized measures, including a minimum of a 2-year development delay.
4. The person has a closely related developmental disability. A "closely related developmental disability" means having functional limitations in both general learning (such as IQ) and in adaptive skills (such as in recreation, work, independent living, self-direction, or self-care).

Persons whose functional limitations are based solely on a physical, behavioral, or emotional disability, or a specific learning or sensory disability, are not eligible to participate as Special Olympics athletes, but may be eligible to volunteer for Special Olympics. Special Olympics also provides opportunities for people with and without intellectual disabilities to participate in Special Olympics together through Unified Sports.