

Eligibility

Persons are eligible for Special Olympics competition provided that they are 8 years of age or older (those ages 2 to 7 are eligible for the Unified Champion Schools Program);

AND

have been identified by an agency or professional as having an intellectual disability;

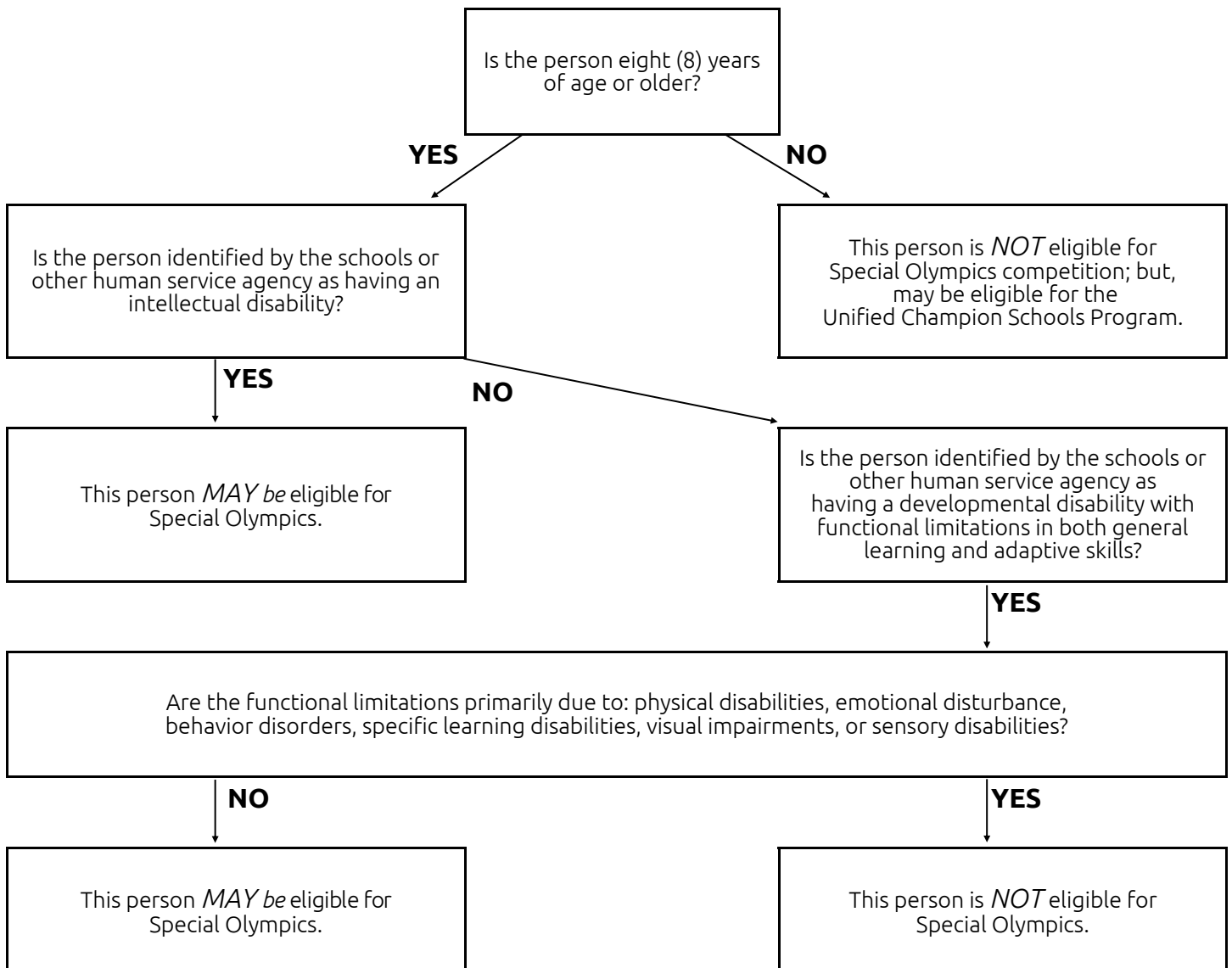
OR

have a closely related developmental disability such as those who have functional limitations, both in general learning and in adaptive skills such as recreation, work, independent living, self-direction, or self-care.

NOTE: People with functional limitations based solely on a physical, behavioral, emotional, specific learning disability, or sensory disability are not eligible. Special Olympics does not determine whether or not a person has an intellectual disability, but bases eligibility on the identification made by an agency or a professional.

For specific questions on eligibility, contact the State Office.

Who is eligible?



Participant Registration

ATHLETE

Application for Participation

The *Application for Participation* is a permanent (no expiration date) form that must be completed **BEFORE** an athlete participates in any Special Olympics training or competition. See Pages 204-205 for the form.

Part 1

1. The adult athlete or minor athlete's parent or guardian must sign the application.
2. Upon completion, the original copy of Part 1 is mailed, faxed, or emailed to the State Office for event and statistical use.
3. Additional copies are retained by the County Program and must be on-site with the *Medical Form* at any Special Olympics activity.

Part 2

1. This page should be completed by the parent / caregiver.
2. Information contained in Part 2 is for use by the County Program to determine the appropriate placement and supervision for an incoming athlete.
3. It is NOT required for Part 2 to be submitted to the State Office.

Medical Form

The *Medical Form* requires a physical examination by a licensed medical examiner (not a nurse or EMT) when first completed. The official Special Olympics *Medical Form* must be used. School or group home medical forms may not be substituted. See Page 206 for the form.

1. The completed *Medical Form* is kept in the possession of the County Program, and must be available for reference at any Special Olympics-related activity (training, competition, and special event).
2. This form is valid for three (3) years from the date of the physician's signature. At the end of three (3) years, the health information section may be completed by a parent/guardian. If major medical problems do not exist or develop, the athlete does not need to see the doctor again. The original form with the doctor's signature should be stapled to future health information forms.
3. If there is any significant change in the athlete's health, the athlete's condition should be reviewed by a licensed examiner before further participation.
4. *Medical Forms* will be checked at selected local, area and state Special Olympics events. **ANY ATHLETE WITHOUT A VALID MEDICAL FORM ONSITE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE.**
5. Any County Program discovered to be allowing participation by individuals without a valid *Medical Form* is subject to probation or suspension from SO Indiana.

Athlete Listings

All athletes are required to have an *Application for Participation* on file with the State Office (Part 1 only). Parts 1 and 2 and the *Medical Form* are to be kept on file with the County Program at all times. Athlete listings will be sent prior to events (see dates below), indicating that an application is on file and current. If an athlete is being registered for this event, and does not appear on this athlete listing, Part 1 of the application must be submitted with the entry form upon registration. Athlete Listings will be sent to programs the week of March 12, July 9, September 3, October 29 and December 17.

Retaining Applications

Applications for inactive athletes or Unified partners should be retained for a minimum of seven (7) years.

UNIFIED SPORTS® PARTNER, COACH, or VOLUNTEER

5 Steps to Becoming a Class A Volunteer. These steps are to all be completed in the Volunteer Management System (VMS).

Step 1: Application

Each applicant will create an online account in VMS with their own email address. Once the account is created, they will be asked to complete an online application with contact information.

Step 2: Background Screening

Once the applicants account is created in VMS, he/she will be asked to enter the necessary information. This will include his/her Social Security number. This information is required to complete the background screening through VMS.

Step 3: Coach/Volunteer Orientation (CVO)

This training is mandatory for all Class A Volunteers. This is a one- hour video and power point session that contains information on the Special Olympics mission, history, organization, eligibility, and sports programs. It also provides information on the responsibility of volunteers for understanding, presenting, and reporting abuse or suspected abuse of athletes. There will be a quiz at the end of the session regarding the material covered.

Step 4: Protective Behaviors Training

Class A volunteers must complete the *Protective Behaviors* training. This training will focus on the prevention of abuse of Special Olympics athletes. There will be a brief quiz at the end of this training covering the material presented. Per Special Olympics Inc. (SOI), volunteers must repeat this training every three (3) years. Volunteers will be prompted in their VMS account when it is time to retake this training. Volunteers do not need to wait for the 3- year expiration to renew Protective Behaviors Training. They may do so at any time.

Step 5: Concussion Awareness Training

This training session is a new requirement for all Class A Volunteers. The material covered in this training session is provided courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This session will help prepare volunteers for in the event that an athlete or Unified partner suffers a concussion. Once this training is completed, each volunteer will be asked to complete a quiz over the material that was covered.

Questions? Contact
volunteers@soindiana.org.

To access the Volunteer Management System, go to:
<https://volunteers.soindiana.org/application>