



Eligibility For Special Olympics

Special Olympics training and competition is open to every person with mental retardation who is at least eight years of age and has a current medical and parent release form on file with Special Olympics Alabama.

Only athletes who have a medical and parent release form on file will be allowed to travel to Special Olympics events.

A person is considered to have mental retardation for purposes of determining eligibility to participate if: The individual has been identified by an agency or professional as having mental retardation; the individual has a cognitive delay identified by a standardized measure such as an IQ (70 or below); the individual has a closely related disability. This refers to functional limitations in both general learning (such as IQ) and in adaptive skills such as self-care, self-direction, independent living, or recreation.

Individuals whose functional limitations are based solely on the physical, behavioral, or emotional disability, or a specific learning disability or sensory disability are not able to participate as Special Olympics athletes. These persons may volunteer as partners in Unified Sports.