

**Special  
Olympics**  
Minnesota



900 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Suite 300 ♦ Minneapolis, MN 55402

**Thank you for expressing an interest in Special Olympics Minnesota!** Enclosed you will find a Special Olympics Minnesota brochure, eligibility requirements for Special Olympics, a short interest survey, a schedule of sport seasons for our sports throughout the year, and an Athlete Application for participation.

In order to be eligible for Special Olympics, individuals must be eight years of age or older and have an intellectual disability. If an individual is eligible, the first formal step is for our office to receive a completed Athlete Application, Official Special Olympics Release and Healthy Athletes Release. **Please note that some portions of these forms must be completed and signed by a licensed medical practitioner.** Once the forms are complete, they should be returned to our office at the address above and directed to "Athlete Placement". For insurance purposes, an individual may not participate in any Special Olympics training activities until placement has been made to a delegation.

What you can expect regarding your Special Olympics experience:

- All sports have components or events designed to accommodate all ability levels.
- During each sport, delegations train a minimum of one hour once a week for 8-10 weeks. Some delegations may train more often.
- For administrative purposes, Minnesota is divided into 13 geographical areas. In most sports in most areas, an area competition will be offered at the end of the season. State competitions are offered in all sports. If an area event is offered, an athlete must participate in that event to advance to state. Beyond that, each delegation may have additional advancement guidelines.
- As an organization, we attempt to minimize the costs of being involved to the athlete or family, and cost should never be a prohibiting factor to participation.

Upon receiving completed forms, the athlete placement process begins:

- We will communicate with you via e-mail or letter to inform you of potential delegations based on age, geographic area and sports of interest. This will be sent directly to the athlete and/or their family. The athlete/parent/guardian may then contact the Head of Delegation and discuss details of their particular team.
- Once a delegation is decided upon, please contact me and a copy of the Athlete Application will be sent by our office to the respective Head of Delegation. Once that is done, the athlete can begin participating. It is then the responsibility of the athlete/parent/guardian to keep in contact with the team about schedules, practice times and any other questions they may have.
- If there are circumstances which are making a particular athlete placement difficult (no delegations in the vicinity, delegations that are too large and are not accepting additional athletes, etc), you will be contacted and the athlete will be placed on a pending list to be contacted at a later time when there may be possible openings.

Some athlete placements may be easier than others and it may take some time to find a team that best fits your particular interests. Your patience is appreciated. In addition, we are also always trying to start new teams to accommodate more opportunities for athletes. If you would like to get more information on starting a team, or have any questions about athlete placement, please contact Kelly at 763-270-7168. Please also take a minute to visit our website, [specialolympicsminnesota.org](http://specialolympicsminnesota.org) for additional information about our program. Again, thank you for your interest and we look forward to having you join our Special Olympics family!

Sincerely,

*Kelly Monicatti*

Kelly Monicatti  
Director of Program