

Glossary of Terms

- **Accreditation:** Method of assuring that every Area meets the essential core requirements of the Special Olympics mission, as well as certain management and financial requirements. Accreditation grants the Area the legal right to use the Special Olympics name, logo, and other trademarks within its jurisdiction to conduct Special Olympics sports and related activities, and to raise funds under the Special Olympics name.
- **Area Director:** The Area Director is responsible for the coordination of all aspects of Special Olympics within a predetermined geographical area of SOWA.
- **Area Games:** Preliminary competitions that take place before Regional or State-level events. These serve as additional competitive opportunities for athletes, as well as provide information that is used to ensure that athletes have an opportunity to compete at an appropriate level according to their ability.
- **Area Program:** One of multiple geographical divisions of SOWA. The Area is comprised of an Area Leadership Team within a geographical area. The Area is the direct service unit for program coordinators and coaches.
- **Area Leadership Team:** The area leadership team is comprised of volunteers within a geographical division of SOWA that supports the areas direction and is a direct service unit for program coordinators and coaches.
- **Athlete:** A person who is identified as having an intellectual disability who is at least 8 years of age and registers to participate in accordance with the SOI General Rules. This individual trains in an Official Sport or Recognized Sport for a minimum of eight weeks or longer during the calendar year and competes in Area, Regional, or State Special Olympics competitions, or participates in a Motor Activities Training Program. Children between the ages of 2 and 7 can participate in the Young Athletes™ Program.
- **Athlete Input Council:** A committee comprised of athletes whose purpose is to facilitate discussion among athletes and pass along their suggestions to improve the program.
- **Athlete Medical Form:** Contains pertinent athlete information, including emergency contacts and medical conditions. This form must be completed by a medical examiner before participation in Special Olympics. This form is also known as the Athlete Participation Form and is to be renewed every three years.
- **Athlete Release Form:** Each athlete is required to submit a consent form to participate in Special Olympics.
- **Class A Volunteer:** Any person who volunteers for a Special Olympics Accredited Program as a coach, chaperone, driver, overnight host, Unified Sports® partner, or otherwise in a manner that results in regular close

contact with Special Olympics athletes. Class A Volunteers also include those who may assume administrative or financial duties such as Committee Members, Event Directors, or Board Members.

- **Class B Volunteer:** Any person who volunteers at a single event; One-day, or walk-on volunteers who do not have direct responsibility or close ongoing contact with athletes.
- **Coach:** Individual charged with training athletes in a specific sport.
- **Division:** The competitive grouping of three-eight athletes in a particular sport based on age, gender, and ability level.
- **Global Messenger:** Athlete Ambassadors, as they are referred to in SOWA, who foster awareness and advocacy for the Special Olympics movement. Athletes may complete a training program in communications, speech writing, and presentations along with a speech coach.
- **Healthy Athletes[®]:** The Healthy Athletes[®] program provides health services and education to Special Olympics athletes and changing the way health systems interact with people with intellectual disabilities.
- **Healthy Communities:** Local initiatives designed to improve health metrics for both athletes and the communities where they live.
- **Local Program:** The local program is the direct service unit for athletes and their family members within SOWA. The local program engages with the public to provide training and competition opportunities while creating inclusive communities. Training and competition are provided for individuals with intellectual disabilities and Unified Sports[®] partners.
- **Medical:** See “Athlete Medical Form”
- **Participant:** A person with intellectual disability who trains but does not compete in a sanctioned SOWA event.
- **SOI General Rules:** The Special Olympics, Inc. (SOI) General Rules provide the rules and guidelines for all activities and bind participants (including Area Coordinators) to the Special Olympics purpose, mission, and goals.
 - View Special Olympics General Rules:
resources.specialolympics.org/RegionsPages/content.aspx?id=38097
- **Staging:** The area where athletes convene as they prepare to compete. This is used to ensure that athletes are placed into the correct competitive divisions.
- **Time Trials:** An event run to establish preliminary scores used to division athletes for final competition.
- **Unified Sports[®]:** An inclusive sports program that combines approximately equal numbers of teammates with and without intellectual disabilities on sports teams for training and competition. Age and ability-matching of athletes and Unified Sports[®] partners are specifically defined on a sport-by-

sport basis.

- **Unified Champion Schools:** Unified Champion Schools create social inclusion in schools by building on Special Olympics' values, principles, practices, and experiences.
- **Unified Sports[®] partner:** A person without an intellectual disability who trains in a Special Olympics sport and who competes at least once in a Special Olympics Game or competition at any level during the calendar year.

Acronyms

- **AFP:** Application for Participation (Athlete Medical Release and Athlete Release Forms)
- **AIC:** Athlete Input Council
- **ALT:** Area Leadership Team
- **BOD:** Board of Directors
- **DD:** Developmental Disability
- **GMS:** Games Management Software
- **GMT:** Games Management Team
- **GOC:** Games Organizing Committee
- **HOD:** Head of Delegation
- **ID:** Intellectual Disability
- **IDD:** Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability
- **LETR[®]:** Law Enforcement Torch Run[®]
- **MATP:** Motor Activities Training Program
- **NGB:** National Governing Body
- **PDD:** Pervasive Developmental Disability
- **POC:** Principles of Coaching
- **PQS:** Program Quality Standards
- **RTP:** Registered Training Program
- **SRT:** Sports Resource Team
- **SOI:** Special Olympics, Inc.
- **SONA:** Special Olympics North America
- **SONG:** Special Olympics National Games
- **SOWA:** Special Olympics Washington
- **SRAC:** Sports Rules Advisory Committee
- **YA:** Young Athletes[™]