Special Olympics Kansas
Age Groups Policy

One unique and important feature of the Special Olympics program is its ability groups for
competition. It is our goal to provide each and every athlete in any given event an equal
opportunity to place first. In order to accomplish this, we form our competition divisions
differently than any other sports program. The following age groups shall be used for all SOKS
games and competitions:

a. Individual Sports:
   1) Youth: ages 8-11
   2) Junior: ages 12-15
   3) Senior: ages 16-21
   4) Masters: ages 22-29
   5) Senior Masters: ages 30 years and over
   6) Open Age Group: reserved for combining age groups to meet the required minimum
      number of competitors or teams in a division.

b. Team Sports and Relay Events:
   1) Junior: ages 15 and under
   2) Senior: ages 16-21
   3) Masters: ages 22 and over
   4) Open Age Group: See above

An athlete’s age group is determined by the athlete’s age on the opening date of the competition
or games. The age of the oldest athlete on a team shall be used to determine the age group in
which that team will compete.

Combining Age Groups: In situations where there are not enough competitors to hold
competition in a certain age group, the athletes should be moved into the next oldest age group or
moved to an open age group.