



## Dear Special Olympics Kansas Athletes, Parents, and Guardians:

Through the power of sports, our athletes find joy, confidence and fulfillment — on the playing field and in life. Whether you are new to Special Olympics or have been involved for years, we are excited you are part of the movement!

### **FORMS TO BE COMPLETED ONCE BY NEW OR RETURNING ATHLETES**

Athletes that are new to the program or returning (inactive two years or more) must complete these forms. These forms only need to be completed once ever as long as the athlete remains active (participates at least once every two years):

- REGISTRATION FORM.** This form asks for contact and other information.
- RELEASE FORM.** This form goes over some important details about Special Olympics participation.
- LIKENESS RELEASE FOR SPONSORS.** Allows for Special Olympics sponsors to use your photos, videos and stories, you may choose to sign this form.
- COMMUNICABLE DISEASES WAIVER** – Required for all Athletes, Coaches, Unified Partners and Program Volunteers prior to attending an in-person practice or competition.

### **MEDICAL FORM (COMPLETED ON A REGULARLY SCHEDULED BASIS)**

- MEDICAL FORM.**
  - **Health History** (Page 1-2) – Required to be completed by the athlete or parent/guardian/caregiver upon initial registration. This form is not required to be completed on a regular basis if there are no material changes to the athletes health or medications. A Local Program may require this within their discretion.
  - **Physical Exam** (Page 3) – This form is designed to identify health concerns that are more common among people with intellectual disabilities and clear an athlete to participate. The Physical Exam section on page 3 should be filled out and signed by a licensed medical professional (for example, Physician, Registered Nurse Practitioner, or Physician Assistant). AREAS INDICATED BY A STAR MUST BE COMPLETED TO BE ACCEPTED.
  - **Medical Referral Form** (Page 4) – Only needed if the athlete is not cleared by a licensed medical professional and additional evaluation is required.

The Special Olympics Medical Form may be current for up to three years. The renewal period will begin January 1 of a cycle and all Medical/Release Forms submitted during the renewal period or during the cycle will expire on December 31 of 2022, 2024, etc. A Medical Form may be submitted to Headquarters at any time.

<b><u>Physicals Given Between</u></b>	<b><u>Expire</u></b>
January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021	December 31, 2022
January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023	December 31, 2024
January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025	December 31, 2026

The Release Form and the Medical Form instruct you to complete other forms in certain uncommon situations. If this applies to you or if you have any other questions, please contact Michele Johnson at [johnsonm@kssso.org](mailto:johnsonm@kssso.org) or 913-236-9290 ext 105.

Please submit registration and medical forms to your Regional Director or the SOKS state office.

## FAQ

### **What has changed?**

The SOKS medical/release form that we had been using was out of date and it was time to move to the official Special Olympics form. Our old form had been approved by SOI insurance but there were some missing elements now required by Special Olympics that we felt it was simply time to move to the official form instead of trying to make the necessary updates to our old one. We need to make sure that we are staying in compliance with the SOI insurance for liability reasons.

In some ways this is now simpler for the program, as the release portion of the form only has to be completed once for active athletes and does not need to be completed each time the medical expires.

### **Do current, active athletes need to do the Registration Form paperwork?**

No. We have determined that what is captured in the old medical/release paperwork while not as comprehensive as the new registration paperwork, is sufficient and we do not want to put that extra burden on Local Programs.

### **Will Special Olympics Kansas still accept medicals from other organizations (i.e. KSHSAA)?**

Yes, as long as it's clear on the form that a medical professional is signing off on participation and there is a signature.

We still need our release forms signed (once) but will continue to accept third party medicals.

### **How often do we need to complete the registration form?**

This only needs to be done once as long as the athlete remains active. If an athlete is inactive for two or more years, we do need an updated form on-file.

**How often do we need to complete the release form?**

This only needs to be done once as long as the athlete remains active. If an athlete is inactive for two or more years, we do need an updated form on-file.

**What has to be completed as part of the medical form?**

Page 3 of the Medical Form is absolutely required to be up to date and we will not accept it if the athlete's name is not on the form and the three boxes highlighted in red are not completed by a medical professional. These three boxes are the Spinal Cord Compression & AAI, Athlete Clearance to Participate and the Signature by a Licensed Medical Examiner.

**How about the Health Information Update form?**

We will no longer accept the Health Information Update form. A new Medical form must be completed.