

# SPECIAL OLYMPICS PROGRAMS WELCOME PARTICIPANTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.



## Uniforms Update

Beginning in 2022, athletes will need to purchase their uniforms before the season starts and will be able to keep them when the season ends. NISRA will be working with a printing company to order uniforms that are necessary to participate in games. We will plan to have athletes keep the same jersey for each individual team and sport for 2-3 years. We will slowly implement this new process. New uniforms are not needed for all sports in 2022 with some not needed until 2023-2024.

For sports such as Tennis, Golf and Bocce, there will be a new polo option for athletes to purchase or the option to wear what they already have. Under each sport, it will be indicated in the notes section if purchasing a jersey is required. Once registered for a sport, you will receive an email from the Manager of Special Olympics informing you of the process to purchase a new jersey.

## Special Olympics Competition

Special Olympics provides quality training & competition, stresses athletic excellence, rewards determination, emphasizes health and celebrates achievements. We want athletes to do their best, and at the same time develop physical fitness, experience joy, and develop skills and friendships. Sports is naturally competitive for athletes and parents. Your child may not understand competition and may struggle with the rules and regulations of competition and the sport. If that is the case, Special Olympics may not be appropriate, and there are other programs that may be more suitable and enjoyable.

Please call the NISRA Office to speak with staff to assess which type of program would be the best match for the participant's interests, abilities, time and convenience.

NISRA has a Code of Conduct for all Special Olympics programs to encourage athletes, coaches and parents/ guardians to embrace the values of competition and sportsmanship. A copy of the form will be provided at the start of each sport season. By registering for any individual or team sport, you are agreeing to adhere to the Code of Conduct before participating. The athlete must attend & actively participate in 75% of all practices prior to the competition in order to be eligible to compete. Athletes who do not compete in the Special Olympics competition will not be allowed to compete at the state level.

Special Olympics Illinois (SOILL) has changed their required forms that apply to ALL ATHLETES. For more of the background/benefits for this change, please visit the NISRA website, [www.nisra.org](http://www.nisra.org).

## New Consent Form

- The Consent Form contains information that previously existed on the Medical Application (App) form.
  - The Consent form separates athlete/parent/guardian consent from the health information.
  - This form will only need to be submitted one time throughout an athlete's lifetime, barring any change in guardianship.
- All athletes must submit the Consent Form prior to participation in order to be eligible.

## New Medical Form

- This form will be valid for three years.
- Like the previous Med App, Special Olympics Illinois strongly suggests that all athletes update their Medical Form after having their annual physical exam, in order to be certain they are able to participate in all SOILL programs.
- The new form only requires the examiner's signature. Parent/Guardian signature is not required on this form.

## Eligibility Process

- New athletes who have not participated: need to submit the new Consent Form and the new Medical Form in order to be eligible to participate.
- Renewing athletes: need to submit the new Consent Form immediately and the new Medical Form prior to their previous Med App's expiration date. If an athlete has a valid Med App on file, the medical portion of the Med App remains valid until its expiration date. However, the athlete must submit the new Consent Form prior to continuing their participation.

SOILL discontinued the use of, and will no longer accept the current Med App form as of August 1, 2021.

Not providing all of the required information described above may result in a delay in processing paperwork and affect an athlete's eligibility for upcoming events.

