

Northampton County Special Olympic Family,

We look forward to getting back in touch with you with the return of Special Olympic activities! As in regular life, there have been many changes within the Special Olympic community. One that will eventually affect all of you is the introduction of a new registration procedure and medical form. IF you/your athlete has a current medical on file, there is no need to complete the updated application at this time. New athletes and current athletes with expired/expiring physicals are now required to use the new **Application for Participation**. We realize that this is a very long and detailed form. It can be completed online or in a printed format. Printed physicals will be sent to you upon request.

Overview

- All new athletes and athletes needing updated physicals must complete an athlete registration form prior to the start of training for a Special Olympics event. This process replaces the previously used SO medical form.
- Athlete registrations are kept on file in a statewide database as well as with Team Northampton. If registration information is not entered or incomplete, the athlete is not approved for participation.
- Plan for your family medical professional to complete the Sports Physical Exam. The required form will be emailed to you once the online registration form has been completed.
- More specific instructions are provided below under **Helpful Information/Instructions** for the online format as well as the printed version for those unable to complete the online version.
- Additional Information for teachers is also listed below.

If at any time you need assistance with this, please contact Linda Lechner at llechncso@gmail.com or use the link listed at the bottom of this page.

Link to PDF **Application for Participation**:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C0TzuvCmm2Mk2p9B_TWYY4mtx_bhf12L/view?usp=sharing

- All information must be carefully printed in a legible manner.
- Completed printed application forms should be handed in to Amanda Sechrist, a current coach or teacher. If none of these options work for you, special arrangements will be made. Just let us know!

Link to online Application for Participation:

<https://medform.specialolympics.org/instructions?form=0000015f-49d8-d70c-a77f-69dd60ef0000>

- Step 1: Complete the online application. This must be completed in one sitting so be sure to gather required information (listed below in Helpful Information) before beginning the process.
- Step 2: Visit a Medical Professional. The required form will be automatically emailed to you after the application has been completed.
- Step 3: Download the forms. Do not hesitate to ask for assistance if needed!

Helpful Information/Instructions:

- Application/medicals are good for 3 years
- The forms should be filled out by the person (or people) who can give the most complete and accurate account of the athlete's medical history. That might include the athlete themselves, the parent or guardian, or a caregiver. If the athlete cannot sign legal documents, then the person completing the form should be able to legally sign on behalf of the athlete.
- Prior to completing, it would be helpful to gather the following information: immunization records, medication/vitamin/dietary supplement lists, allergies and dietary restrictions, past surgeries and infections, family medical conditions
- Page 2- general demographic and contact information. State Special Olympic Program = PA , Local Area/Delegation = Northampton County
- Page 3- Release form and important details about participation
- Page 4- **Optional** Likeness release form for Sponsors
- Page 6 or 7: EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE REFUSAL FORM, required **ONLY** if on the Athlete Release Form athlete selected *"I have a religious or other objection to receiving medical treatment"* and/or *"I do not consent to a blood transition."*
- Pages 8-16: SELF-IDENTIFICATION STATEMENTS AND POLICY ACKNOWLEDGMENT, reviews Special Olympics Pennsylvania policies. We understand that many of our school based athletes are not involved in competitions requiring travel and/or overnight stays. Special Olympics requires that all involved read and acknowledge receiving information on these policies.
- Pages 17-18: Athlete health history
- Page 19: SPORTS PHYSICAL EXAM FORM: to be completed by an authorized medical personnel to include MDs, DOs, CRNPs, FNPs, and PAs. This must be taken to a medical professional for completion. No private physical forms will be accepted.

- Page 20: MEDICAL REFERRAL FORM Required ONLY if an athlete requires further examination due to a concerning health issue before clearance can be determined.

For Teachers

- Athlete registrations are good for 3 years.
- New athletes and athletes with expired physicals must complete the Athlete Registration for Participation. Athletes with current physicals may continue to participate using the old medical form up until the expiration date.
- In the event that a student hands a printed registration packet to you, the original must be given to Amanda Sechrist as soon as possible after it is received.
- A copy of the completed Sports Physical Exam will be provided to you by Team Northampton. This should be passed on to a new teacher when an athlete leaves your classroom.
- Field trip permission forms are required for all SO events.
- Carry a copy of each medical or Sports Physical Exam form with you while attending SO events.
- Please contact Linda Lechner if there are any questions, to confirm the participation status of a student in your class, if contact information for a student changes, or if one of your students moves to another classroom/program.