

SOHO Participation Criteria

School age athletes have an IEP (or had an IEP for adult athletes) or have been identified by an agency or professional as having intellectual or closely related disabilities. Athletes who have physical disabilities, but who do not have intellectual disabilities are not eligible for Special Olympics.

Children 6-7 years of age may participate in age-appropriate Special Olympics training programs when a parent or adult volunteer is there to provide one-to-one assistance. Athletes can begin participating in competitions in most sports at age 8 (some exceptions, e.g., powerlifting athletes cannot train or compete until age 16).

Families or caregivers are required to provide a one-to-one assistant for athletes with behavioral issues.

Continued behavioral issues will result in suspension from the program.

Athletes who do not reside in Howard County are welcome to participate if space is available. In sports where there is a wait list, Howard County athletes are given priority.