



Suggested criteria to be used when selecting qualified athlete leaders to serve on your Board of Directors (as approved by the U.S. Athlete Input Council, Fall 2017):

- Have an Athlete Profile on file. Link to Athlete & Youth Leader Profile is available on SONA Resources page. <http://resources.specialolympics.org/sona-resources/>
- Athlete Leadership Courses Completed:
 - 1) Introduction to Athlete Leadership
 - 2) Governance
- Be a high school graduate or have equivalent education
- Have at least 5 years Special Olympics experience
 - 1) Currently registered athlete
 - 2) Involved in Athlete Leadership, either:
 - experience on an Athlete Input Council, or
 - experience on a Special Olympics Committee
 - 3) Participated in a sport competition/program within the last 5 years
- Be at least 21 years of age
- Have access to transportation to get to and from meetings etc.
- Have access to a computer and basic computer use skills
- Have an email address and be confident user of email
- Be knowledgeable about Special Olympics
- Have effective communication skills (oral, written, and listening)
- Able to contribute in meetings independently (readability, comprehension, discussions)
- Has a professional demeanor, can conduct themselves appropriately, and can honor the confidential nature of board business
- Can commit to time, requirements and expectations of the role

In addition, Programs should keep in mind the following points shared during the Fall 2017 Accreditation Webinar.

- Each Board must include at least one current or former Special Olympics athlete.
- **Athlete members must have the same rights and privileges as other voting Board members, including full voting rights and the same terms as other members.**
- Athletes should play a meaningful and integral role and should not be chosen only to satisfy the accreditation requirement.

Programs are encouraged to make use of materials provided through the Special Olympics Athlete Leadership Program to make the most of athlete leadership.