



## Health Promotion Virtual Health Assessment Toolkit

### Background and Overview

The Health Promotion Health Assessment Protocol, also called the Health Assessment, offers a hybrid of individual athlete assessment including self-reported weight, and measured height and waist, targeted health education and feedback on key health habits. Athlete, family and coach engagement and support is critical throughout the pandemic and beyond.

The Health Assessment model is developed for use on computers, tablets and smart phones. It uses the Google Form platform and may be adapted for alternate platforms. The Health Assessment captures response data, with the opportunity link the educational component to the health habits questions. Athlete responses can be captured later onto the HAS form. Flexibility on use of the virtual Health Assessment program is built in relative to numbers of participating athletes, whether or not athletes live alone or in a group home environment, platform used to deliver the Health Assessment, whether the it is delivered by HP Clinical Directors, Program staff or other clinical volunteers or students.

### Health Assessment Process

#### Athletes register

- Athletes are invited to register, and program selects their preferred registration system
- Athletes complete disclaimer (program option)

#### Athletes sent link to complete online Health Assessment

- Demographics
- Height, weight and waist circumference
- Self-reported health habits

#### Athletes attend educational webinar

- Aggregated results of the self-assessment are shared
- Key educational messages discussed, with the opportunity for Q and A

#### Follow-up, referrals and evaluation

- If screening result for BMI or waist to height ratio-WHtR is of concern, the standard HP follow-up and referral process is followed
- Program Fitness opportunities are included as referral options

### Note

#### 1. Health Assessment Tool (Google Form)

The Health Assessment includes self-reported weight and measured waist circumference and height, and questions on health habits, which focus on behaviors linked to chronic disease risks. These include vitamin D supplement use, beverage choices, bone building foods, fruit and vegetables, salty or sweet snacks and

sugar sweetened beverage consumption and frequency, exposure to second-hand smoke and handwashing knowledge and habits.

**Athletes should enter weight, height and waist circumference and answer health habits questions online before the educational session.**



**Resource:** Printed instructions with graphics for athletes describing how to correctly measure their height are available for [Imperial](#) and [Metric](#). A short video describing the same is offered for [Imperial](#) and [Metric](#).













**Resources:** The Health Assessment Tool is formatted on a Google Form (to request access, email Alice Lenihan ([lenihanaj@aol.com](mailto:lenihanaj@aol.com)) and the HP Discipline Manager ([healthpromotion@specialolympics.org](mailto:healthpromotion@specialolympics.org)).

- Programs will receive the form named and linked to their program. It can be personalized with program information and additional data the Program wishes to collect. Each program should save it on their program's Google drive or adapt to another platform.
- The Health Assessment tool includes questions about health habits and pictures to facilitate the response. Exhibit 1 (below) shows an example of Health Assessment questions with pictures.
- The Health Assessment questions are available for Programs choosing to use a platform other than Google.

Exhibit 1

**Check the beverage you drink when you are thirsty- you can check more than one.**

 <input type="checkbox"/> Water	 <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit juice	 <input type="checkbox"/> Soft drink <input type="checkbox"/> Diet <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Diet	 <input type="checkbox"/> Sport drink	 <input type="checkbox"/> Milk (include soy milk)
 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			 <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol	

## 2. Athlete Engagement and Invitation:

After deciding on the date(s) and times for the Health Assessment tool dissemination, the Google Survey Invitation should be emailed to athletes with a link to the Health Assessment. We recommend sending the Health Assessment tool in advance of the planned group education opportunity, so the athlete has time to enter their self-reported weight and their measured height and waist circumference and to consider their health habits survey responses, before they electronically return the completed Health Assessment. The Health Assessment Tool reporting feature provides the program with readymade charts, graphs and daily tabulation of answers on the completed forms.



**Resources:** Athlete Health Assessment Invitation Template with instructions is found at:

<https://media.specialolympics.org/resources/health/disciplines/health-promotion/virtual/Health-Assessment-Invitation-Email-Template.docx>

The **Virtual Health Assessment Disclaimer** may be attached to registration form or to the Health Assessment Tool. See <https://media.specialolympics.org/resources/health/disciplines/health-promotion/virtual/Virtual-Health-Assessment-Disclaimer.pdf>

## Health Assessment Athlete Session

- a. The Health Assessment Education event is coordinated by the Program and will be led by a Clinical Director and/or clinical volunteers. Additional clinical volunteers may help to implement the event and/or to lead breakout groups if needed for large groups of athletes.
- b. At the Health Assessment event aggregate summaries of the Health Assessment results and targeted education is provided on the topics covered in the Health Assessment.
- c. Depending on athlete input and discussion, the session will take approximately 1 hour. The Clinical Director can decide how to handle questions via the chat box, a raised hand or other method. Not all questions have to be handled on the spot. The response can go out later to the group if research or more information is needed.
- d. **Suggested Session Flow:**
  - a. Program staff or a Health Messenger can introduce the session, explain the purpose, and thank the participants for participating.
  - b. The Clinical Director should congratulate and thank the athletes and others who submitted completed Health Assessments. Remind everyone the information is confidential and will not be shared and then begin the session. Over the results of the Health Assessment and discuss key educational messages for the relevant topics
  - c. Allow for questions and answers from participants.
  - d. Within a few days following the session, the Athlete Health Report 2020 with referrals should be sent to each athlete.



**Resource: A PowerPoint template to share the Health Assessment aggregated interview results with educational scripting is available.** It can be adapted with the Program's Health Assessment results or topics the Clinical Director wants to emphasize or add. It is found at:

<https://media.specialolympics.org/resources/health/disciplines/health-promotion/virtual/Health-Assessment-Webinar-with-Script.pptx>

**NOTE:** We discourage online polling during the Zoom session since athletes need time to take and record their measurements, view the pictures, and consider their responses. A PowerPoint presentation available for use for Programs who are only able to offer the Health Assessment using online polling. This alternate PowerPoint template with the Health Assessment questions and images built in, and is available at:

<https://media.specialolympics.org/resources/health/disciplines/health-promotion/virtual/Health-Assessment-Webinar-with-Polling-and-Script.pptx>

Regardless of the polling platform used, results should be saved as an excel file so graphs and charts can be easily extrapolated.

### Follow Up

A completed Health Assessment can alert the Clinical Director and Program staff to athletes who need follow up and referral. The process should be the same one the program has been using for athlete health promotion referrals. In addition to referrals for physician or Registered Dietitian follow-up, the program should include referrals to health and fitness programs offered through Program, for example, Fit 5, School of Strength and others.



The Health Assessment screening results for newly measured height and waist results, and self-reported weight should be entered on the **Athlete Health Report 2020**. It should be emailed to the athlete to explain screening results and recommend referrals and is available at

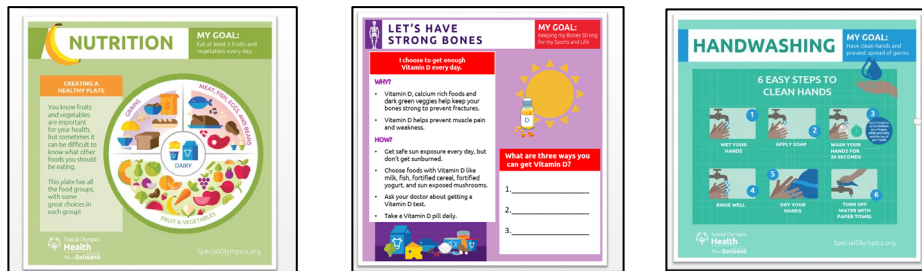
<https://media.specialolympics.org/resources/health/disciplines/health-promotion/virtual/Athlete-Health-Report-2020.pdf>

## Future Health Promotion Sessions

Athlete questions and discussions on various topics indicate opportunities for additional information, education, and programming. The Clinical Director and staff should look for and listen for such opportunities. For example, athletes may be interested in learning more about portion sizes, trying new foods and tastes, healthy cooking. Contact the Health Promotion Program Manager to access additional education resources.

## Additional Education Resources for Social Media Platforms

**1. Health Promotion Posters** Smaller versions of the HP educational posters with focused education messages, are available for use in webinars, Family Health Forums, social media or for “advertisement breaks” during Virtual Games. These resources are available at [Social Media Resources Toolkit](#)



**2. Virtual Athlete Power Pack (SO Africa)** Materials suited for athletes who are “offline” without access to WIFI or electronic communication devices. Available at: <https://media.specialolympics.org/resources/health/disciplines/health-promotion/virtual/Virtual-Athlete-Power-Pack.pptx>

As they become available, additional resources suitable for virtual use will be posted at <https://resources.specialolympics.org/health/health-promotion>