



Purpose and Goals:

The goal of Opening Eyes is to **increase access to eye care and resources** for Special Olympics athletes and people with IDD. This is achieved by:

- Collecting and analyzing screening data in order to raise awareness and advocate for improved vision care for people with IDD.
- Providing vision care and distributing appropriate eyewear to athletes during their 12-step visual screening at Special Olympics Healthy Athletes®.
- Influencing the attitudes of eye care practitioners, optometry students, and ophthalmology residents who volunteer to care for people with IDD.
- Educating athletes, coaches, families, and caregivers on the critical role of vision in sports, academics, and work performance.
- Offering continuing education to volunteer eye care practitioners to familiarize them with the best techniques for assessing people with IDD.
- Opening Eyes does **NOT** replace a comprehensive eye exam, which includes dilation.

Overview

Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Foundation Opening Eyes® (vision care), offers **non-dilated vision screenings, eye health assessments, and prescription eyewear** to Special Olympics athletes and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Through Opening Eyes, volunteer eye care professionals and students provide eye health services and update glasses prescriptions by providing frames (sponsored by Safilo) and lenses (sponsored by OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation).

Facts and Impact:

Opening Eyes screenings have found that a large percentage of Special Olympics athletes in the U.S. have vision and eye health concerns including:

2% have never had an eye exam.

10% have an ocular health abnormality.

67% need a new prescription or replacement eyewear.

Contact:

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