

Special Olympics has made significant changes to its athlete registration process, transitioning from the Athlete Medical Form to a more streamlined system comprised of the Athlete Registration Form and Renewal Form. This change makes the registration process easier for athletes and families by removing the barrier of getting a physical examination prior to participation. The Athlete Registration Form still ensures that essential health information is collected and the Renewal Form provides annual updates. Special Olympics encourages all athletes to have yearly physical examinations by a licensed provider to detect or prevent new health issues and manage existing ones.

Here are the key changes that have occurred:

1. Simplification of Forms:

- The old Athlete Medical Form was complex, containing some questions and medical jargon that were often challenging for families to understand and complete.
- The new Athlete Registration Form is simplified. It includes only essential health questions and gathers personal demographics, information about assistive devices used, and medications. We believe it is the minimal essential information that all coaches should know about their athletes.

2. Use of Forms:

- Then:
 - i. The Athlete Medical Form was mandatory for all athletes intending to participate in training and competitions, requiring them to undergo a physical examination.
- Now:
 - i. Athlete Registration Form: used to collect essential personal and health-related information for all athletes without requiring an immediate physical examination. This form only needs to be completed once, prior to an athlete participating for the first time.
 - ii. Athlete Medical Form: used specifically at Regional Games, World Games and USA Games and can be completed up to a year prior to the event. This form requires athletes and Unified partners to undergo a physical examination and must be completed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - iii. Athlete Registration Renewal Form: updates key information about the athlete (i.e. health history) each year.

3. Improved Accessibility and Compliance:

- Essential health information is collected in a more user-friendly manner.
- Detailed medical examinations are reserved for higher-stakes competitions.



Registration Form:

- The Program/delegation information has been simplified into one line.
- American Sign Language has been added to the language spoken section.
- A brief set of intake questions (health history) replaces the full athlete physical exam on previous paperwork.
- There has been space added for a more detailed history of behavioral and mental health conditions.
- All previous waivers, releases and policies are now condensed into one set of text requiring individual acknowledgement.
- The waiver section now has language addressing when to complete Atlanto-Axial Instability and spinal cord compression documentation.
- Release of Liability / Assumption of Risk / Indemnification has been added to the waiver.
- Removal of:
 - o Redundant questions from contact info and health history
 - o Questions related to sports desired and employment
 - o Physician and insurance information
 - o Question regarding athlete's capacity to consent to medical treatment

Medical Form:

- Utilized for USA, Regional & World Games. The new Medical Form will now be used during MedFest screenings.
- All self-reported information & sections have either been removed or moved to the Athlete Registration Form.
- Adjusted text for consistency in asking questions about the athlete.
- More space is provided for additional details about any past/existing conditions or abnormalities.
- The introductory text was adjusted regarding referrals and how a second medical provider should complete this form.
- Removal of:
 - o Redundant questions
 - o Questions about COVID-19 and immunizations.