***Why will there be a requirement for an annual health history renewal?***

The new requirement eliminates a major barrier requiring a licensed medical practitioner’s physical examination and signature. At the same time, the new registration form benefits Programs by providing more current information about athletes across all categories and benefits athletes by providing the most current health information in support of their overall participation. Many of our athletes have changes in their health and medications annually and it is in their best interest – and ours – to have updated information.

***If no medical practitioner’s signature is needed at the Program level, will a medical practitioner’s signature be required for USA, Regional, or World Games? (NOTE: All references to Regional Games in this document refer to SONA-level events.)***

Yes, a medical practitioner will need to complete the medical form for athletes competing above the Program level, such as a USA, Regional, and World Games.

***Who needs to complete an Athlete Medical Form for a Regional or World Games?***

All registered Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners must complete a Games Athlete Medical form within 12 months of the end date of the Games they will be participating in. This form includes a medical examination that must be conducted by a licensed medical practitioner.

***What*** ***happens to recently renewed Athlete Medical Forms that are considered current under the old process?***

Medical forms completed prior to the implementation of the new registration process should be honored for three years from submission, or the expiration date of the previous form, whichever comes first.

***What are the Athlete Registration Form requirements for sports participants in schools and community partner programs? (i.e., Unified Champion Schools, colleges, Parks & Recreation, Boys & Girls Clubs)***

For activities and competitions that are operated by the school or partner organization, the Athlete Registration Form is encouraged, but not required. The Special Olympics Athlete Registration Form and annual renewal policy is required for participation in activities and competitions that are operated by a Special Olympics Program. In other words, the Athlete Registration Form is required for participants from schools and community organizations that attend competitions operated by Special Olympics.

***Are there certain responses to the health history or medication in the new Athlete Registration Form that would require the Program to recommend further attention prior to participation, including the completion of the Athlete Medical Form by a medical practitioner?***For health and safety reasons, Programs, coaches and medical staff may advise an athlete to consult a physician before pursuing participation based on the information reported on the Athlete Registration Form.

***If a Program decides to continue with a medical practitioner’s signature during athlete registration, would the medical form be valid for 3 years and will annual updates to health history be required?***

Yes, a signature from a medical practitioner is valid for three years. Programs will need to collect an annual registration renewal form for all athletes.

***What is the potential impact on MedFest? How will MedFest be marketed moving forward?***

Even though Special Olympics will not require a licensed medical practitioner’s signature to participate, an annual physical exam is strongly encouraged to promote overall athlete health. MedFest will remain as a program aimed at providing athletes the opportunity to see a physician as well as an opportunity to train physicians to care for individuals with IDD.

***Will there continue to be a supplemental form for athletes with Atlantoaxial Instability?***

Language specific for athletes with Atlantoaxial Instability has been added to the waiver section of the registration form.

***Will athletes need a new medical form filled out for every SONA regional event or will the medical part be good for 3 years?***

Medical forms for USA, Regional and World Games will be valid for three years.

**Will Programs be giving a list of what is acceptable for an electronic signature? If they are Adobe-friendly does that allow us to use Adobe Pro to fill in a digital signature or are Programs required to use a different platform?**

Adobe and DocuSign are both recommended e-sign solutions. Our current recommendation is Adobe based on costs and compatibility within the movement.

***Is there a mandatory “switch-over” or implementation timeframe?***

It is expected that all Programs will adopt the new process by January 1, 2026. If a Program decides to continue with a signature from a medical practitioner, the annual Athlete Registration Renewal From will still be required.