

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SPECIAL OLYMPICS, INC. AND THE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ADAPTED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”) represents an enhanced commitment to the strategic partnership between the International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity, with offices at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong China (“**IFAPA**”) and Special Olympics, Inc., a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation with offices located at 2600 Virginia Av, NW, 11th Floor Washington, DC 20037 (**SOI or Special Olympics**), hereinafter collectively referred to as the “**Parties**” and individually as a “**Party**”. It has been developed in recognition of the respective mandates, responsibilities, strategic objectives and mission statements of the two organizations, and will focus on the enhanced participation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in year-round fitness activities as well as promoting the training and empowerment of self-advocates and family members.

WHEREAS, SOI’s mission is to provide year-round sport training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendships with their families, other Olympics athletes, and the community;

WHEREAS, IFAPA is an international scientific organization of higher education scholars, practitioners and students dedicated to promoting adapted physical activity. The fundamental purposes of IFAPA are: to encourage international cooperation in the field of physical activity to the benefit of individuals of all abilities, to promote, stimulate and support research in the field of adapted physical activity throughout the world, and to make scientific knowledge of and practical experiences in adapted physical activity available to all interested persons, organizations and institutions; and

WHEREAS, SOI and IFAPA, as acknowledged leaders within their respective fields, recognize that an agreement of cooperation would be mutually beneficial and would serve to establish enduring ties between the organizations. IFAPA and SOI have a shared commitment to promote collaborative strategies and activities that lead to scientific research, application of results, resource development, and professional development related to inclusive physical activity, sport, and fitness for people with disabilities throughout the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this MOU is to clearly describe the roles and responsibilities of each Party as they relate to the goals and objectives stated below.

GOALS

- 1. Promote, support, and advance sport and physical activity** programming for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the world.

2. **Stimulate and coordinate the application and dissemination of scientific research findings** to improve quality of sport and physical activity programming and positively impact the wellbeing of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
3. **Encourage and support cooperation among SOI and IFAPA** members, regional branches, and other partner organizations to document and promote research and practice that benefit individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

OBJECTIVES

1. **Ongoing Communication, Connection and Collaboration:** The parties will collaborate on ways to engage IFAPA members to support SOI, regional and local Program research objectives in sport and physical activity, and plan to:
 - Offer a series of workshops and webinars to discuss opportunities to increase IFAPA member awareness of SOI. Topics may include information on accessing/utilizing SOI data, SOI fitness tools and resources, SOI sport tools and resources, and collaborating with local SO Programs;
 - Create a plan to foster connection between IFAPA and regional branches with local SO Regions and Programs to support greater research & evaluation studies on sport and physical activity for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, globally;
 - Explore opportunities for collaboration and shared funding to develop and evaluate innovative physical activity and sport programming for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities;
 - Invite IFAPA member(s) to serve on the SOI Fitness Advisory Committee; and
 - Disseminate relevant research & evaluation findings through newsletters, websites, social media, co-authored scientific publications (e.g., APAQ), and/or other avenues.
2. **Special Olympics Events:** The parties will collaborate on ways for IFAPA to have a presence and involvement at SOI and SOI regional events and plan to:
 - Foster connections between SOI, IFAPA and IFAPA regional branches to encourage attendance and participation by academic researchers at the SO Research Symposium (TBC) at the Special Olympics World Games 2027 – Santiago, Chile;
 - Co-develop collaborative research opportunities and access to World Games 2027 athlete data to address the needs, challenges and impacts of health, sport and physical activity for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and
 - Encourage SOI regions to invite IFAPA regional representatives for the board to Special Olympics conferences such as leadership conferences, Program staff conferences, inclusive health summits, and webinars.
3. **IFAPA and IFAPA Regional Branch Events:** The parties will collaborate on ways for SOI to have a presence and involvement at IFAPA regional branch conferences and the International Symposium of Adapted Physical Activity (ISAPA) 2025 in Kerry Ireland and plan to:
 - Invite SOI representatives to attend and present on SOI research & evaluation, fitness and sport programming at ISAPA and IFAPA regional branch conference(s);

- Co-lead sessions when relevant and mutually agreed upon;
- Determine 2-3 regions of the world to expand APA research and organize a meeting at ISAPA with relevant stakeholders to discuss opportunities to increase IFAPA member awareness and involvement with SOI research & evaluation in those regions.

ARTICLE 2. SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND SCOPE OF WORK

Through this MOU the parties may explore opportunities to further increase collaboration in matters that are of mutual interest to both organizations. Both organizations recognize that the purpose, details and mechanics of this collaboration may be further developed and refined over time as the organizations work together on matters of mutual interest. Specific projects will be mutually agreed on as an annex to this MOU on a case-by- case basis. Each individual annex which contains its own work plan for the specific project, which shall include (but not be limited to): a set of objectives, activities, project coordinators, rights and obligations of the parties, financial resources, a budget and methods of evaluation/audit.

ARTICLE 3. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Both organizations recognize the benefit that may be derived by exchanging information on matters of mutual interest. Accordingly, where both organizations deem it possible and appropriate, the organizations may provide the other organization with updates and information on matters that may serve the mutual interests of both organizations.

ARTICLE 4. ADVOCACY EFFORTS

The organizations may explore opportunities to collaborate on advocacy efforts. In so doing, both organizations may work together at the national level, where both organizations deem it possible and appropriate, to advocate for issues and health-related legislation on myriad issues that may serve the mutual interests of both organizations.

ARTICLE 5. LIAISON RELATIONSHIP

Each organization should designate a staff member to act as the main liaison between each organization and this staff member should assist with communications between the organizations. Both organizations recognize that this liaison relationship can be modified to fit the needs of this MOU. IFAPA is designating Professor Jin, Secretary of IFAPA, to serve as liaison on its behalf. SOI is designating Gwendolyn Apgar, Senior Manager of Fitness for Sports Performance and/or Alicia Dixon-Ibarra, Director of Fitness & Health Research, to serve as liaison(s) on its behalf.

ARTICLE 6. INDEPENDENT ENTITIES

Both organizations understand that they are and shall remain distinct corporate entities and neither has the authority to bind or act for the other.

ARTICLE 7. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

SOI is and shall remain the sole owner of materials developed by SOI. SOI hereby grants to IFAPA a limited, nonexclusive, royalty-free, revocable license to use the name and logo of Special Olympics solely for the purpose of IFAPA fulfilling its obligations under this Agreement. By granting this license IFAPA has no ownership of SOI marks. IFAPA shall submit each use of SOI marks to SOI for its advance review and approval/disapproval.

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ARTICLE 8. CONFIDENTIALITY

The Parties shall protect the confidentiality of information received in implementing this MOU and in carrying out any of the programs under it. The use of confidential information is confined to the activities that are essential for providing services governed or anticipated by this MOU.

ARTICLE 9. NON-BINDING OBLIGATIONS

This MOU is a non-binding statement of the parties' mutual understanding of their proposed collaboration framework. The MOU is not intended to create any legally enforceable rights or obligations with respect to either Party.

ARTICLE 10. NO PARTNERSHIP

Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as creating a joint venture or legal partnership between the Parties. Neither Party shall have the authority to bind the other Party, nor shall the employees, volunteers and agents of one Party be considered employees, volunteers or agents of the other Party. This MOU is not intended to imply a financial arrangement between the Parties, merely a spirit of goodwill and collaboration centered on improving the quality of health care provided to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Should funding opportunities arise that may be mutually beneficial to the Parties, the Parties agree to negotiate the terms of those agreements apart from the terms of this MOU.

ARTICLE 11. ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

This MOU shall be in effect from the Effective Date and shall be automatically reviewed every two years from the Effective Date unless the Parties mutually agree by signed written agreement to extend the MOU. This MOU may be modified or amended by written agreement and such modification will be deemed integrated into this MOU. This MOU can be terminated for any reason or no reason by either Party providing written notice to the other Party at the addresses stated above. All notices to SOI shall include a copy to Brandon M. Fitzgerald, Chief Legal Officer, bfitzgerald@specialolympics.org and legal@specialolympics.org. Notices shall be deemed received by a Party upon delivery.

ARTICLE 12. ASSIGNMENT

Neither Party may assign this MOU to a third party without the prior written approval of the other Party.

ARTICLE 13. GOVERNING LAW

This MOU shall be governed by the laws of the District of Columbia, United States.

Signature Page Follows

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the Effective Date.

International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity

By: 
Cindy Hui-ping SIT
President, IFAPA

Date: June 18, 2025

By: 
Jooyeon Jin
Secretary, IFAPA

Date: 6.18.2025

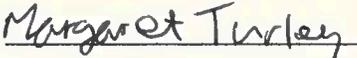
Special Olympics, Inc.

By: 
Annemarie Hill
Chief, Global Health Operations

Date: 02/12/2025

By: 
Andy Lincoln
Vice President, Research & Evaluation

Date: 18 June 2025

By: 
Margaret Turley
Sargent Shriver Global Messenger

Date: 18 June 2025