



Program
EXCELLENCE

Program Quality Standards

Community Building Building Block

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Our Community Building quality standards relate to:



- **Athlete Leadership** – including creating opportunities for athletes to lead
- **Athlete Health & Wellness** – including Healthy Athletes, follow up care and wellness education
- **Youth Activation** – including opportunities for youth with and without ID to engage with Special Olympics
- **Families and Young Athletes** – including engaging family members and offering services to young athletes

Program Quality Standards

The Program Quality Standards are a tool to help Programs develop and grow. They were a 'ground-up' initiative - created with input from Programs in all Regions. The standards are for Special Olympics Accredited Programs, specifically for Program Leaders. They enable Program Leaders to understand, manage, support and deliver activities to a high level of quality.

Using the standards:

The standards are grouped into 10 'building blocks'. Within each building block, most standards have three stages. Read them from left to right – starting with Stage 1 and moving in the direction of Stage 3.

You can use the standards to conduct a self-assessment, help set goals for your strategic and operational plans, track your progress and celebrate your growth.

The standards can help you set goals in your plan, but do not replace your Program's plan which should outline specific growth goals. You may also consider using the self-assessment tool we have created to help you.



Community building	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Athlete Leadership	Program provides opportunities for athletes to serve in one or more leadership roles in addition to Board membership (e.g. Spokesperson, Committee member, Employee)	Program increases the number of athletes serving in leadership roles each year and creates opportunities for athletes to participate in external/ partner events	Athlete Leaders are actively involved in all aspects and levels of the Program
	Program has an informal group of athlete leaders who provide input to Program leaders	Program has formal athlete committee to represent athletes throughout the year	Program implements a formal process for the athlete committee to provide input to Program leaders
	Program has a system to track number of athlete leaders serving in each leadership role and implements an athlete leader recognition plan	Program increases and tracks the frequency of athletes serving in leadership roles	
Athlete Health & Wellness	Program requires all athletes to submit timely, accurate medical forms, including evidence of referral follow-up	Program submits all Healthy Athlete screening forms according to grant requirements	Program has electronic health records for each athlete
	Program offers at least one Healthy Athletes clinic per year run by a trained Clinical Director	Program offers at least three Healthy Athletes disciplines per year	Program offers five or more Healthy Athletes disciplines per year with a strategy to reach new athletes
	Program has at least one cash or VIK supporter for Healthy Athletes	Program locally funds at least 30% of Healthy Athletes event costs	Program locally funds at least 75% of Healthy Athletes event costs
	Program ensures athletes, families and caregivers receive results of screenings	Program refers athletes to specific health providers for follow-up care	Program has formal health partnerships to provide free or reduced-cost follow-up care
	Program communicates the importance and impact of health and wellness to all athletes, partners, coaches and families		Programs offers health and wellness programming outside of clinics for athletes, partners, coaches and families
Youth Activation (age 12-25)	Program actively recruits youth (with and without ID)	Program implements and tracks a formalized plan for increasing numbers of youth every year	Program implements a formalized plan for retaining youth as they get older

Community building	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Youth Activation (continued) (age 12-25)	Programs actively involve youth as volunteers and partners	Youth are provided opportunities for leadership roles (e.g. as Board members, officials, coaches, interns, committee members, etc.)	Youth are provided formal leadership development opportunities to advance as leaders in the Program
	Program leaders seek informal input from youth involved in the Program	Program has a formal youth activation committee to carry out activities (e.g. Unified Sports, youth activation summit) throughout the year	Program implements a formal process for the youth activation committee to provide input to Program leaders
	Program builds relationships with educational institutions that cater for ID and non-ID students (e.g. schools, universities)	Program partners with educational institutions to conduct inclusive sport and education activities (e.g. Unified Sports, SOGII, youth summit)	Inclusive sport and education activities engage schools and the wider community
		Program has a formal youth activation strategy and implements a youth recognition plan	Program measures the effectiveness of its youth activation strategy through research and evaluation
Families and Young Athletes	Family representative on the Board consults with families	Program has an active family committee with defined goals to support, engage and motivate family members	Family committee implements process for gathering and using feedback from family members to inform Program decision-making
	Program recruits family members and provides them with orientation	Program provides family forums and implements a family recognition plan	Family members are actively involved in all aspects of the Program
	Program actively recruits family members to serve as leaders	Program has at least four family members who serve in leadership roles	Program has at least four family members who serve as 'Community Builders' outside of Family program
	Program provides regular information targeted to the needs of family members	Program engages community partners to participate in outreach to current and prospective family members	
	Program offers Young Athletes program	Program engages family members to implement young athletes programming including home training	Program offers a sustainable and expanding Young Athletes program that provides a transition to training and competition
		Program completes evaluations after every Young Athletes demonstration	Program analyzes and documents child and family progress over time