

ATHLETE REGISTRATION FORM

Special Olympics



State Special Olympics Program: _____ Local Area/Delegation: _____

Are you a new athlete to Special Olympics or Re-Registering? ☐ New Athlete ☐ Re-Registering

ATHLETE INFORMATION		
First Name:	Middle Name:	
Last Name:	Preferred Name:	
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy):	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Other Gender Identity
Race/Ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> More than one race <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White or Caucasian <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latinx		
Language(s) Spoken in Athlete's Home (Optional): Check all that apply <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list):		
Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone:	E-mail:	
Sports/Activities:		
Athlete Employer, if any (Optional):		
Does the athlete have the capacity to consent to medical treatment on his or her own behalf? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
PARENT / GUARDIAN INFORMATION (required if minor or otherwise has a legal guardian)		
Name:		
Relationship:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Same Contact Info as Athlete		
Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone:	E-mail:	
EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> Same as Parent/Guardian		
Name:		
Phone:	Relationship:	
PHYSICIAN & INSURANCE INFORMATION		
Physician Name:		
Physician Phone:		
Insurance Company:	Insurance Policy Number:	
Insurance Group Number:		

ATHLETE LIKENESS RELEASE FOR SPONSORS (OPTIONAL)

Special Olympics



Special Olympics relies on sponsors and partners to help support our mission. We often use photos, videos and stories of our athletes to show the impact of support by companies that sponsor Special Olympics. If you wish to allow your likeness to be used in this way, please read and sign below.

I agree to the following:

- I give permission to Special Olympics, Inc., Special Olympics games organizing committees, and Special Olympics accredited Programs (collectively "Special Olympics") and their sponsors and partners to use my likeness, photo, video, name, voice, words, and biographical information ("my likeness") to acknowledge the sponsors' and partners' support for Special Olympics.
- Special Olympics and its sponsors and partners will not use my Likeness to endorse commercial products or services.
- I understand I will not be compensated for the use of my Likeness.

Athlete Name:	
ATHLETE SIGNATURE (required for adult athlete with capacity to sign legal documents)	
I have read and understand this form. If I have questions, I will ask. By signing, I agree to this form.	
Athlete Signature:	Date:
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (required for athlete who is a minor or lacks capacity to sign legal documents)	
I am a parent or guardian of the athlete. I have read and understand this form and have explained the contents to the athlete as appropriate. By signing, I agree to this form on my own behalf and on behalf of the athlete.	
Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:
Printed Name:	Relationship:

ATHLETE RELEASE FORM

Special Olympics



I agree to the following:

1. **Ability to Participate.** I am physically able to take part in Special Olympics activities.
2. **Likeness Release.** I give permission to Special Olympics, Inc., Special Olympics games organizing committees, and Special Olympics accredited Programs (collectively "Special Olympics") to use my likeness, photo, video, name, voice, words, and biographical information to promote Special Olympics and raise funds for Special Olympics.
3. **Risk of Concussion and Other Injury.** I know there is a risk of injury. I understand the risk of continuing to play sports with or after a concussion or other injury. I may have to get medical care if I have a suspected concussion or other injury. I also may have to wait 7 days or more and get permission from a doctor before I start playing sports again.
4. **Emergency Care.** If I am unable, or my guardian is unavailable, to consent or make medical decisions in an emergency, I authorize Special Olympics to seek medical care on my behalf, unless I mark one of these boxes:

☐
☐

I have a religious or other objection to receiving medical treatment. (Not common.)

I do not consent to blood transfusions. (Not common.)

(If either box is marked, an EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE REFUSAL FORM must be completed.)
5. **Overnight Stay.** For some events, I may stay in a hotel or someone's home. If I have questions, I will ask.
6. **Health Programs.** If I take part in a health program, I consent to health activities, screenings, and treatment. This should not replace regular health care. I can say no to treatment or anything else at any time.
7. **Personal Information.** I understand that Special Olympics will be collecting my personal information as part of my participation, including my name, image, address, telephone number, health information, and other personally identifying and health related information I provide to Special Olympics ("personal information").
 - I agree and consent to Special Olympics:
 - using my personal information in order to: make sure I am eligible and can participate safely; run trainings and events; share competition results (including on the Web and in news media); provide health treatment if I participate in a health program; analyze data for the purposes of improving programming and identifying and responding to the needs of Special Olympics participants; perform computer operations, quality assurance, testing, and other related activities; and provide event-related services.
 - using my contact information for communicating with me about Special Olympics.
 - sharing my personal information confidentially with (i) researchers such as universities and public health agencies that are studying intellectual disabilities and the impact of Special Olympics activities, (ii) medical professionals in an emergency, and (iii) government authorities for the purpose of assisting me with any visas required for international travel to Special Olympics events and for any other purpose necessary to protect public safety, respond to government requests, and report information as required by law.
 - I have the right to ask to see my personal information or to be informed about the personal information that is processed about me. I have the right to ask to correct and delete my personal information, and to restrict the processing of my personal information if it is inconsistent with this consent.
 - **Privacy Policy.** Personal information may be used and shared consistent with this form and as further explained in the Special Olympics privacy policy at www.SpecialOlympics.org/Privacy-Policy.

Athlete Name:	
ATHLETE SIGNATURE (required for adult athlete with capacity to sign legal documents)	
I have read and understand this form. If I have questions, I will ask. By signing, I agree to this form.	
Athlete Signature:	Date:
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (required for athlete who is a minor or lacks capacity to sign legal documents)	
I am a parent or guardian of the athlete. I have read and understand this form and have explained the contents to the athlete as appropriate. By signing, I agree to this form on my own behalf and on behalf of the athlete.	
Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:
Printed Name:	Relationship:

Athlete Medical Form – HEALTH HISTORY

(To be completed by the athlete or parent/guardian/caregiver and brought to exam)

**Special
Olympics**



Athlete First & Last Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Athlete Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Other Gender Identity

STATE PROGRAM: _____

E-mail: _____

ASSOCIATED CONDITIONS - Does the athlete have (check any that apply):

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autism | <input type="checkbox"/> Down Syndrome | <input type="checkbox"/> Fragile X Syndrome |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cerebral Palsy | <input type="checkbox"/> Fetal Alcohol Syndrome | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Syndrome, please specify: _____ | | |

ALLERGIES & DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

- ☐ No Known Allergies
- ☐ Latex
- ☐ Medications: _____
- ☐ Insect Bites or Stings: _____
- ☐ Food: _____

ASSISTIVE DEVICES - Does the athlete use (check any that apply):

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brace | <input type="checkbox"/> Colostomy | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication Device |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C-PAP Machine | <input type="checkbox"/> Crutches or Walker | <input type="checkbox"/> Dentures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glasses or Contacts | <input type="checkbox"/> G-Tube or J-Tube | <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Aid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Implanted Device | <input type="checkbox"/> Inhaler | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacemaker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Removable Prosthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Splint | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheel Chair |

List any special dietary needs: _____

SPORTS PARTICIPATION

List all Special Olympics sports the athlete wishes to play: _____

Has a doctor ever limited the athlete's participation in sports?

☐ No ☐ Yes *If yes, please describe:* _____

SURGERIES, INFECTIONS, VACCINES

List all past surgeries: _____

Does the athlete currently have any chronic or acute infection?

☐ No ☐ Yes *If yes, please describe:* _____

Has the athlete ever had an abnormal Electrocardiogram (EKG) or Echocardiogram (Echo)? *If yes, describe date and results*

- ☐ Yes, had abnormal EKG _____
- ☐ Yes, had abnormal Echo _____

Has the athlete had a Tetanus vaccine in the past 7 years? ☐ No ☐ Yes

EPILEPSY AND/OR SEIZURE HISTORY

Epilepsy or any type of seizure disorder ☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, list seizure type: _____

If yes, had seizure during the past year? ☐ No ☐ Yes

MENTAL HEALTH

Self-injurious behavior during the past year	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Depression (diagnosed)	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Aggressive behavior during the past year	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Anxiety (diagnosed)	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Describe any additional mental health concerns: _____

FAMILY HISTORY

Has any relative died of a heart problem before age 50? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Has any family member or relative died while exercising? ☐ No ☐ Yes

List all medical conditions that run in the athlete's family: _____

Athlete Medical Form – HEALTH HISTORY

(To be completed by the athlete or parent/guardian/caregiver and brought to Exam)



Athlete's First and Last Name: _____

HAS THE ATHLETE EVER BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH OR EXPERIENCED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS

Loss of Consciousness	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	High Blood Pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Stroke/TIA	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Dizziness during or after exercise	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	High Cholesterol	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Concussions	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Headache during or after exercise	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Vision Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Asthma	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Chest pain during or after exercise	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Hearing Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Shortness of breath during or after exercise	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Enlarged Spleen	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Hepatitis	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Irregular, racing or skipped heart beats	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Single Kidney	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Urinary Discomfort	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Congenital Heart Defect	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Osteoporosis	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Spina Bifida	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Heart Attack	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Osteopenia	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Cardiomyopathy	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Sickle Cell Disease	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Heat Illness	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Heart Valve Disease	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Sickle Cell Trait	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Broken Bones	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Heart Murmur	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Easy Bleeding	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Dislocated Joints	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Endocarditis	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	If female athlete, list date of last menstrual period: _____			

Describe any past broken bones or dislocated joints

(if yes is checked for either of those fields above):

List any other ongoing or past medical conditions:

Neurological Symptoms for Spinal Cord Compression and Atlanto-axial Instability

Difficulty controlling bowels or bladder	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	If yes, is this new or worse in the past 3 years?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Numbness or tingling in legs, arms, hands or feet	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	If yes, is this new or worse in the past 3 years?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Weakness in legs, arms, hands or feet	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	If yes, is this new or worse in the past 3 years?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Burner, stinger, pinched nerve or pain in the neck, back, shoulders, arms, hands, buttocks, legs or feet	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	If yes, is this new or worse in the past 3 years?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Head Tilt	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	If yes, is this new or worse in the past 3 years?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Spasticity	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	If yes, is this new or worse in the past 3 years?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Paralysis	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	If yes, is this new or worse in the past 3 years?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

PLEASE LIST ANY MEDICATION, VITAMINS OR DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS BELOW

(includes inhalers, birth control or hormone therapy)

Medication, Vitamin or Supplement Name	Dosage	Times per Day	Medication, Vitamin or Supplement Name	Dosage	Times per Day	Medication, Vitamin or Supplement Name	Dosage	Times per Day

Is the athlete able to administer his or her own medications? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Name of Person Completing this Form

Relationship to Athlete

Phone

Email

Athlete Medical Form – PHYSICAL EXAM

(To be completed by a Licensed Medical Professional qualified to conduct exams & prescribe medications)



Athlete's First and Last Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

MEDICAL PHYSICAL INFORMATION

(To be completed by a Licensed Medical Professional qualified to conduct physical exams and prescribe medications)

Height	Weight	BMI (optional)	Temperature	Pulse	O ₂ Sat	Blood Pressure (in mmHg)		Vision	
cm	kg	BMI	C			BP Right:	BP Left:	Right Vision 20/40 or better	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
in	lbs	Body Fat %	F					Left Vision 20/40 or better	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Right Hearing (Finger Rub) <input type="checkbox"/> Responds <input type="checkbox"/> No Response <input type="checkbox"/> Can't Evaluate	Bowel Sounds <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Left Hearing (Finger Rub) <input type="checkbox"/> Responds <input type="checkbox"/> No Response <input type="checkbox"/> Can't Evaluate	Hepatomegaly <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Right Ear Canal <input type="checkbox"/> Clear <input type="checkbox"/> Cerumen <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Body	Splenomegaly <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Left Ear Canal <input type="checkbox"/> Clear <input type="checkbox"/> Cerumen <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Body	Abdominal Tenderness <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> RUQ <input type="checkbox"/> RLQ <input type="checkbox"/> LUQ <input type="checkbox"/> LLQ
Right Tympanic Membrane <input type="checkbox"/> Clear <input type="checkbox"/> Perforation <input type="checkbox"/> Infection <input type="checkbox"/> NA	Kidney Tenderness <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Right <input type="checkbox"/> Left
Left Tympanic Membrane <input type="checkbox"/> Clear <input type="checkbox"/> Perforation <input type="checkbox"/> Infection <input type="checkbox"/> NA	Right upper extremity reflex <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Diminished <input type="checkbox"/> Hyperreflexia
Oral Hygiene <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor	Left upper extremity reflex <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Diminished <input type="checkbox"/> Hyperreflexia
Thyroid Enlargement <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Right lower extremity reflex <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Diminished <input type="checkbox"/> Hyperreflexia
Lymph Node Enlargement <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Left lower extremity reflex <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Diminished <input type="checkbox"/> Hyperreflexia
Heart Murmur (supine) <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 1/6 or 2/6 <input type="checkbox"/> 3/6 or greater	Abnormal Gait <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, describe below
Heart Murmur (upright) <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 1/6 or 2/6 <input type="checkbox"/> 3/6 or greater	Spasticity <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, describe below
Heart Rhythm <input type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Irregular	Tremor <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, describe below
Lungs <input type="checkbox"/> Clear <input type="checkbox"/> Not clear	Neck & Back Mobility <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> Not full, describe below
Right Leg Edema <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 1+ <input type="checkbox"/> 2+ <input type="checkbox"/> 3+ <input type="checkbox"/> 4+	Upper Extremity Mobility <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> Not full, describe below
Left Leg Edema <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 1+ <input type="checkbox"/> 2+ <input type="checkbox"/> 3+ <input type="checkbox"/> 4+	Lower Extremity Mobility <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> Not full, describe below
Radial Pulse Symmetry <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> R>L <input type="checkbox"/> L>R	Upper Extremity Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> Not full, describe below
Cyanosis <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, describe	Lower Extremity Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> Not full, describe below
Clubbing <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, describe	Loss of Sensitivity <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, describe below

SPINAL CORD COMPRESSION & ATLANTO-AXIAL INSTABILITY (AAI) (Select one)

- ☐ Athlete shows **NO EVIDENCE** of neurological symptoms or physical findings associated with spinal cord compression or atlanto-axial instability.
- OR
- ☐ Athlete has neurological symptoms or physical findings that could be associated with spinal cord compression or atlanto-axial instability and must receive an additional neurological evaluation to rule out additional risk of spinal cord injury prior to clearance for sports participation.

ATHLETE CLEARANCE TO PARTICIPATE (TO BE COMPLETED BY EXAMINER ONLY)

Licensed Medical Examiners: It is recommended that the examiner review items on the medical history with the athlete or their guardian, prior to performing the physical exam. If an athlete needs further medical evaluation please make a referral below and second physician for referral should complete page 4.

- ☐ This athlete is **ABLE** to participate in Special Olympics sports without restrictions.
- ☐ This athlete is **ABLE** to participate in Special Olympics sports **WITH** restrictions. Describe → _____
- ☐ This athlete **MAY NOT participate** in Special Olympics sports at this time & **MUST** be further evaluated by a physician for the following concerns:
- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerning Cardiac Exam | <input type="checkbox"/> Acute Infection | <input type="checkbox"/> O ₂ Saturation Less than 90% on Room Air |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerning Neurological Exam | <input type="checkbox"/> Stage II Hypertension or Greater | <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatomegaly or Splenomegaly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please describe: _____ | | |

Additional Licensed Examiner's Notes and Recommended (but not required) Follow-up:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up with a cardiologist | <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up with a neurologist | <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up with a primary care physician |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up with a vision specialist | <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up with a hearing specialist | <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up with a dentist or dental hygienist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up with a podiatrist | <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up with a physical therapist | <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up with a nutritionist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Exam Notes: _____ | | |

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

License #: _____

Signature of Licensed Medical Examiner

Exam Date

Athlete Medical Form – MEDICAL REFERRAL FORM

(To be completed by a Licensed Medical Professional only if referral is needed)



Athlete's First and Last Name: _____

This page only needs to be completed and signed if the physician on page three does not clear the athlete and indicates further evaluation is required.

Athlete should bring the previously completed pages to the appointment with the specialist.

Examiner's Name: _____

Specialty: _____

I have been asked to perform an additional athlete exam for the following medical concern(s) - *Please describe:*

- ☐ Concerning Cardiac Exam ☐ Acute Infection ☐ O₂ Saturation Less than 90% on Room Air
☐ Concerning Neurological Exam ☐ Stage II Hypertension or Greater ☐ Hepatomegaly or Splenomegaly
☐ Other, please describe: _____

In my professional opinion, this athlete MAY now participate in Special Olympics sports (indicate restrictions or limitations below):

☐ **Yes** ☐ **Yes, but with restrictions (*list below*)** ☐ **No**

Additional Examiner Notes/Restrictions: _____

Examiner E-mail: _____

Examiner Phone: _____

License: _____

Examiner's Signature

Date

This section to be completed by Special Olympics staff only, if applicable.

This medical exam was completed at a MedFest event?

☐ Yes ☐ No

The athlete is a Unified Partner or a Young Athlete Participant?

☐ Unified Partner ☐ Young Athlete



CONCUSSION AWARENESS AND SAFETY RECOGNITION POLICY

Objective

It is Special Olympics' intent to take steps to help ensure the health and safety of all Special Olympics participants. All Special Olympics participants should remember that safety comes first and should take reasonable steps to help minimize the risks for concussion or other serious brain injuries.

Defining a Concussion

A concussion is defined by the Centers for Disease Control as a type of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head as well as serial, cumulative hits to the head. Concussions can also occur from a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth—causing the brain to bounce around or twist within the skull. Although concussions are usually not life-threatening, their effects can be serious and therefore proper attention must be paid to individuals suspected of sustaining a concussion.

Suspected or Confirmed Concussion

A participant who is suspected of sustaining a concussion in a practice, game or competition shall be removed from practice, play or competition at that time. If a qualified medical professional is available on-site to render an evaluation, that person shall have final authority as to the removal or return to play of the participant. If applicable, the participant's parent or guardian should be made aware that the participant is suspected of sustaining a concussion.

Return to Play

A participant who has been removed from practice, play or competition due to a suspected concussion may not participate in Special Olympics sports activities until either of the following occurs (1) at least seven (7) consecutive days have passed since the participant was removed from play and a currently licensed, qualified medical professional provides written clearance for the participant to return to practice, play and competition or (2) a currently licensed, qualified medical professional determines that the participant did not suffer a concussion and provides written clearance for the participant to return to practice play immediately. Written clearance in either of the scenarios above shall become a permanent record.

The Centers for Disease Control website www.cdc.gov/concussion provides additional resources relative to concussions that may be of interest to participants and their families.