



Athlete Input Council

Athlete Input Councils (AIC) are an open forum for Athletes to share their input on key topics, games and events.

They are a means for athletes to express their ideas, concerns and recommendations at the local level, to help improve the quality and integrity of their Special Olympics program. Input Councils give athletes a chance to discuss important issues with other athletes, provide a format for athletes on committees to gather input on varying topics, and allow athletes to share information from their committees.

Input Councils meet on a regular basis and recommend new ideas to their local County Management Team and provide valuable feedback on events and competitions held at the Area or State level.

Athletes involved on Athlete Input Councils

The athletes are empowered to voice their opinions and recommend a course of action about various facets of the year-round sports training and athletic competition program. The meetings provide a forum to report to other athletes with the latest happening in their area, address important issues, and gain leadership and training experience.

It also gives local AICs opportunities to provide feedback and ideas that could affect Special Olympics New Jersey athletes.

Through participation in sports, athletes gain confidence, self-esteem and personal skills. With this new confidence, some athletes may wish to pursue other opportunities within the Special Olympics program. Athlete Leadership encourages athletes to develop skills which will empower them to be advocates for all athletes and act as a leader for Special Olympics.

Training for Members

Input Council members should go through the Intro to Athlete Leadership training course, or a course designed for Input Council members.

This Course will be provided to any AIC group at the location of their choosing.



Requirements to form an Athlete Input Council (AIC)

- ✓ Must be made up of at least 3 registered Special Olympics athletes (valid medical form on file)
- ✓ Must be at least 15 years of age or older
- ✓ Suggested smaller group sizes of 10-15, but no limit if the group is able to share ideas from all
- ✓ Must meet at least 3 times per year
- ✓ Can be an LTP, friends group, social group, Global Messengers, or any group of registered athletes
- ✓ Can have multiple AICs within one registered LTP (If large LTP)
- ✓ Can be retired athletes that no longer participate in sports, but would like to be involved in leadership (any former athletes will need to become eligible by having a new SONJ medical form on file)
- ✓ Athletes can participate in more than one AIC (i.e. If you compete with multiple LTPs throughout the year)

To register an AIC please use the online link below
or contact Joanne Monaco at jdm@sonj.org

Register online

<https://www.tfaforms.com/4612729>