



October 2, 2024

After much research, discussion, and in collaboration between Special Olympics Inc. (SOI) Special Olympics North America (SONA) along with Special Olympics programs, SOI has made the decision to remove the requirement of the athlete physical exam and physician's signature for participation in Special Olympics. This would eliminate the necessity for a doctor to sign off and complete the current athlete participation packet. This removal of the physician's signature requirement allows for easier access to Special Olympics New Jersey programming.

The remaining pages of the participation packet, including the health history and waivers, will still be required at this time. For new athletes or athletes with expired or expiring medicals through 2024 the baseline requirement is completing the current participation packet minus the doctor's signature page.

SONJ is still awaiting final details from SONA regarding updates to the Health History Form and annual updates needed. We will share them widely once they are available via electronic, digital and webinar communications.

Any new full packets that include an exam page and doctor's signature will be valid for 3 years until November 1st. After November 1st, **all** packets will transition to the 1-year health history forms.

**Special Olympics New Jersey Sports Complex**

1 Eunice Kennedy Shriver Way, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 Tel 609.896.8000 Fax 609.896.8040 [www.sonj.org](http://www.sonj.org)

**GENUINE JERSEY PRIDE**