



Young Athletes™ Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for Young Athlete's?

Any child aged 2-7 years, with or without an intellectual disability is eligible for the Young Athletes Program.

Does my child need to have a physical exam before participating in Young Athletes?

Not at this time. Young Athlete participants only need to have a completed parent/guardian consent form.

Does my child's form expire?

Yes. Your child's form expires 3 years from the original date it was signed, or once they turn 8 years of age.

Is there a fee to participate in Young Athletes?

No. Young Athletes, like traditional Special Olympics sports is offered at no charge to participating athletes.

Is Young Athletes a competitive sports program?

No. YA is an introduction to sports. It focuses on cognitive and motor-skill development through sport skill programs.

Can Young Athletes be included in Spring/Winter Games events?

Yes! All Young Athletes are invited to attend State Games, walk in opening ceremony as well as participate in a Culminating Event to show what they have been learning!

Does a child have to be enrolled in a school/preschool to participate?

No. Any child can participate in Young Athletes.

What happens when a Young Athlete participant turns 8?

If he/she has an intellectual disability, they are eligible to compete in traditional Special Olympics, once a physician and parent has signed an athlete participation form (AFP). If he/she does not have a disability they may continue to participate as a Unified Partner.

How do I get an Activity Guide?

Visit our website at <http://www.specialolympicswashington.org/unified/unified-sports/young-athletes>. To get a hard copy with the instructional DVD please contact the SOWA Young Athletes Program representative.

How do I get a YAP Equipment kit?

Contact the Special Olympics Washington Young Athletes Program representative.

I hear Flaghouse has a YAP Kit. Do you have to use their kit?

No. You can put your own kit together.