Frequently Asked Questions - New SOHI Athlete/ Unified Partner Registration

What is Changing?

- A doctor's exam is no longer required as part of the Athlete Registration unless certain medical conditions exist.
- Athletes must renew their registration annually (instead of every 3 years) with a short renewal registration.

Why is There a New Athlete/ Unified Partner Registration?

This change aligns with Special Olympics International's effort to make participation easier while still gathering the essential health information coaches need for safe training and competition.

Who Must Complete the New Athlete/ Unified Partner Registration?

- **New athletes** joining a Special Olympics Hawai'i delegation
    - *A parent/guardian must complete the Athlete Registration for minors and for adults with legal guardians.*
- **School-based athletes** participating in any SOHI-hosted event
- **Current athletes** whose existing registration (valid for three years) is expiring

I Have an Active (old) Medical - Do I Need to Submit a Registration Now?

No. Your current registration remains valid for 3 years from the date of your last physical exam. We'll remind you before it expires, and when it does, you'll complete the new online registration.

How Long Does the Registration Take to Complete?

Approximately 15 minutes online.

What's included in the Registration?

1. Athlete, Parent/Guardian (if applicable) and Emergency Contact Information
2. Health History
3. Waivers and Releases
4. Athlete Code of Conduct

Note: Parent/guardian signatures are required for minors and for adults with legal guardian.

How Often Must I Renew My Registration?

Annually.

What is Included in the Registration Renewal?

A brief yearly check-in: confirm contact info and indicate whether there have been changes to health history. You will also re-sign the waivers/releases annually. Approximate time to complete is less than 5 minutes

Who must sign the waivers/releases?

1. Adult athletes/ Partners without a guardian must sign their own waivers.
2. Parent/guardian signatures are required for minors and adults with legal guardians.

How Will I Know When It's Time to Renew?

SOHI will send a reminder email **120 days** and **60 days** before expiration.

What Information Will My Head of Delegation Receive?

If an athlete reports a health condition during their registration, it will trigger a need for further health information. Your Head of Delegation will have the ability to view this information.

When is a Physical Exam Required?

1. A Medical Form with medical provider clearance and signature is required if:
    - The athlete has had a concussion within the past 30 days, or
    - The athlete indicates they are *currently* restricted from sports participation by a doctor.

    **This provider clearance must be renewed annually while these conditions apply.*
    - Level 2 flags, which would include moderate to severe conditions.
        1. Heart Condition
        2. Asthma
        3. Diabetes
        4. Epilepsy/Seizure disorder
        5. Sickle Cell
        6. Bleeding disorder

If Required, What Physical Exams are Accepted for the Athlete/ Unified Partner Registration?

Click here to view and download the Special Olympics Hawai'i Athlete Medical Form.

- **We accept** any sports physical, including HHSAA physicals, completed and signed by a licensed medical practitioner (e.g., physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) qualified to clear athletes for sports participation.
- **We do not accept** encounter or visit summaries, health appraisals, or any form that does not clearly state the athlete is cleared for sports participation.

Does SOHI Recommend Annual Check-ups from a Medical Provider?

Yes, while not required for the Athlete/ Unified Partner Registration, we encourage annual wellness visits to support overall health and prevention. SOHI will provide three MedFest events at the beginning of each sports season.

How Do I Complete the Athlete/ Unified Partner Registration?

Both athletes and unified partners will use this link: https://portals.specialolympics.org/

Can I Submit the Registration on Paper?

No, paper forms are not accepted. Athlete Registrations must be completed online through the Athlete Registration portal. However, you can reach out to your coach, Head of Delegation or Area Director to help you with your on-line registration.

When can I begin participating after submitting my registration?

Once your registration is submitted and any required provider clearance is verified, you're approved to train and compete in all SOHI sports for one year.

Are there changes to the Class A registration process for Coaches and Volunteers?

No changes. Class A registrations are still required every 3 years for coaches and Delegation volunteers. A background check is needed for those 18 and older along with General Orientation and Protective Behaviors.

What if I miss my expiration date?

No worries! Submit the new registration as soon as possible, as you will not be able to participate until your registration is complete.

How will I know if my Athlete/ Unified Partner Registration was received?

You'll get an email confirmation from portals@specialolympics.org with a copy of your submitted form. Check your junk or spam folder if you don't see it. If you have Level I or Level 2 issues on your health history, you will need to fill out further documents.

What do I do if I need help?

Contact your Head of Delegation.