

An individual can participate in Special Olympics if:

- They are 8 years or older (5-7 year olds may participate in training programs but cannot compete).
- An agency or professional has identified them as having an intellectual disability.
- In New Zealand this would usually be done by:
 - GP/Paediatrician
 - School/Special Needs Assessors
 - Community Needs Assessment Agency
 - The individual has a cognitive delay as determined through standardized tests used generally in New Zealand

OR

- The individual has a developmental disability affecting general learning and adaptive skills in at least two of the following
 - Communication
 - Social skills
 - Self Care
 - Function academics
 - Leisure
 - Work Capabilities
 - Home Living
 - Health and Safety

A person is **NOT** eligible for Special Olympics if their disability is **SOLELY** due to physical disabilities, emotional disturbances, behaviour disorders, specific learning disabilities, psychiatric illness or sensory disabilities.