



# General Rules for Participation in Anne Arundel Co. Special Olympics

1. Due to the increase in the number of athletes in our program, it is now mandatory that all athletes pre-register for any sport they wish to participate in. A registration period will be established for each sport season, and the athlete must pre-register by emailing Donna Merten ( email address [Sports Registration Coordinator](#) ). Failure to pre-register may prevent an athlete from participating. The athlete will be placed on a waiting list if the roster for that sport is full.
2. Anne Arundel Co. Special Olympics is training athletes to compete in local and state competitions. Therefore, it is mandatory to attend practices and qualifiers, except for excused absences. If an athlete has more than 3 unexcused absences, they will not be eligible for the final competition in that sport. Athletes are also expected to be on time. If an athlete is late without a reasonable excuse, they may not be able to participate in that practice, which will count as an unexcused absence.
3. If an athlete is accepted to a regional or state competition, and fails to attend without an accepted excuse, then they will not be eligible for that competition in the following season.
4. If an athlete is training in more than one sport, and one of those sports is a team sport, the team sport is considered your first choice and takes precedence for all competitions. If none are team sports, then the athlete must specify their choice for the End of Year competition, and must compete in the qualifiers required for that sport.
5. In order for an athlete to participate, the athlete must have a valid medical on file. There will be no exceptions. If the medical on file is not valid, the athlete will not be able to practice.
6. Upon completion of the final state or regional competition, sports uniforms must be returned in a timely manner. If not returned, the athlete will not be permitted to participate in any sport until the uniform is either paid for or returned.
7. The above rules are not all inclusive, as each sport may have specific rules that apply uniquely to that sport.