

*Special
Olympics*



Athlete Representative

Overview

June 2021

**ATHLETE
LEADERSHIP**

Athlete Representative

Overview

? Why?

Athletes need to drive Special Olympics work. To achieve this, there needs to be athlete representation on all leadership groups.

To become an athlete led organization, athletes must lead the work and participate in the decision-making process and implementation. Athlete Representatives can fulfil that role.

✓ What?

Athlete Representatives are athletes who provide perspective and opinions on behalf of other athletes.

They help set policy, make recommendations for continuous improvement, introduce new ideas, and then, when appropriate, implement those new ideas to improve local programming.

Athlete Representatives:



Understand the mission and goals of the organization they serve.



Are connectors, committed to expressing opinions and gathering or sharing feedback of other athletes.



Represent Special Olympics professionally.



Leadership Roles

Here are 3 examples of roles for Athlete Representative:

1 Athlete Leadership Council*

The Athlete Leadership Council is a group of athletes that represent the interests of all athletes in their Program. They voice their opinions about important issues related to Special Olympics and provide support and leadership to all programmatic areas at a local, national, regional or global level.

*Previously referred to as Athlete Input Council

2 Serving on Program Board of Directors

All Special Olympics Board of Directors must include at least one current Special Olympics athlete. The athlete serving on the board:

- Must have the same rights and privileges as other voting Board members
- Play an integral role
- Set organization direction
- Monitor annual and strategic direction
- Meet periodically to discuss and vote on organizational matters

3 Participating on Committees

The purpose of a committee is to solve problems, plan events, develop budgets, and so much more. Really, they can do just about anything when they work together, and everyone contributes.

Here, athletes must:

- Manage a specific topic or issue.
- Address issues or problems and make recommendations for solutions.
- Meet regularly to complete tasks.

Examples of Special Olympics Committees:

- Athlete Leadership Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Opening Ceremonies Committee
- Family Committee
- Volunteer Recruitment Committee
- Policies & Procedures Committee
- Fundraising Event Committee
- LETR Committee



Training

The purpose of the Athlete Representative training course is to:

- 1 Train athlete leaders in leadership skills that allow them to participate effectively as Athlete Representatives.
- 2 Describe the Athlete Representative roles available in Special Olympics and review expectations and leadership opportunities for athletes.

Topic	Description	Est Time
Lesson 1: Preparing for Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before the meeting • During the meeting • After the meeting 	Ensure you are prepared for the meeting. Learn the steps you should take to have a successful meeting and meet or exceed expectations.	45 mins
Lesson 2: Meeting Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tips for leading meetings • Group dynamics in meetings 	Not all meetings flow the same way, even if it is the same group of people. Learn and practice some skills to guarantee a productive meeting.	45 mins
Lesson 3: Athletic Leadership Council (ALC) ALC explained Structure, roles, and responsibilities	This is a more specific discussion on what an ALC does and how it functions. This course also covers some suggestions to increase effectiveness of this group.	90 mins
Lesson 4: Preparing Committees & Boards of Directors Athletes serving on committees explained Athletes serving on boards explained Members, roles, and responsibilities	Ensure you are prepared for the meeting. Learn the steps you should take to have a successful meeting and meet or exceed expectations.	60 mins

We encourage you to complement this training course with the following Advanced Leadership Courses: **Leadership Discussions, 60 mins**



Delivery Method

You can use these resources to offer the training in whatever way works best for you – virtually or in person.

- 1** The workbook is designed to be used by the participants during the sessions.
- 2** The facilitator guide is to assist staff in facilitating a discussion via virtual webinar. The PowerPoint slides are to be used as a visual during the discussion.

Resources



Pathway to Athlete Representative



Athlete Representative facilitator guide



Workbook



PowerPoint slides

You can access all Athlete Representative Training resources [here](#).

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9cmvbvw9ps1yx22/AABTdLou3vuaVzPSGnVk8CtFa?dl=0>