



Ohio Alliance of YMCAs/Special Olympics Ohio Continuation of Athlete Memberships January 2024

Overview

We are excited to announce that SOOH and Ohio YMCAs are continuing the partnership to provide SOOH athletes with opportunities to build confidence, self-esteem, and accomplishment while strengthening their skills and abilities in a given sport or activity. **More than 1,300 athletes took advantage of this opportunity last year!**

We are also looking to provide awareness of local YMCAs in each athlete's communities, focusing on their status as a cause-driven organization that exists to serve. More importantly SOOH is helping to strengthen and operationalize the YMCA's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion by providing staff training.

Lastly, this partnership will provide volunteerism and employment opportunities that will benefit the athlete, YMCA operations, and YMCA members.

SOOH Athlete YMCA Membership

All SOOH athletes are eligible to obtain a renewable year-long membership at their local YMCA branch at no charge. Please have all interested athletes follow these guidelines to obtain membership. **Athletes who received a membership in 2023 should renew their membership for 2024 by following the same steps.**

Eligibility

- An athlete must have current physical on file and be in good standing with their local organization.
- Athlete's are eligible to obtain membership for a "Private Provider" if necessary.
 - "Private Providers" are only allowed to use their free YMCA membership when accompanying a SOOH athlete.

Steps to Sign Up OR Renew:

Step 1: Athlete Completes This YMCA Membership Request Form

If the above link does not work, paste this URL into your web browser:

<https://airtable.com/appFMDJmL4oqtmWjl/shrsiTKXqY6CqUyEi>

- Athlete enters their full name and contact information (email, phone). If the athlete does not use email, they should enter the email of someone who can receive their membership certificate.
- Choose the athlete's Local Organization from the menu (by clicking the **+Add** button).
- Does the athlete require having a private provider with them at the YMCA? If so, choose "yes".
 - If a private provider is required, enter that person's name. If the provider changes from day to day, enter one main provider's name.

- Choose the preferred YMCA location from the menu (by clicking the **+Add** button).

The athlete and their local coordinator will receive an email confirmation.

Step 2: Local Coordinator completes the Membership Approval form by way of the hyperlink provided in the confirmation email

If the link in the confirmation email does not work, paste this URL into your web browser:

<https://airtable.com/appFMDJmL4oqtmWjl/shrtlNsM39NFy8AL9>

- Local coordinator chooses the athlete's name from the menu (by clicking the **+Add** button).
- Select the sports seasons in which the athlete participates in Special Olympics (select all that apply).
- Does the athlete require having a private provider with them at the YMCA? If so, choose "yes".
- Type the full name of the local coordinator who is approving this membership request.

Step 3: Receive YMCA Membership Certificate

- If the local coordinator approves the membership, and the athlete participates in at least one season of Special Olympics, a Membership Certificate will be emailed to the athlete and cc'd to the local coordinator.
- Athlete can print this Membership Certificate or show on their phone at the YMCA where they selected their membership.
- The YMCA will enroll the athlete (and their private provider, if required) and give them their official YMCA membership card.