

## **Special Olympics Kansas Age Groups Policy**

One unique and important feature of the Special Olympics program is its ability groups for competition. It is our goal to provide each and every athlete in any given event an equal opportunity to place first. In order to accomplish this, we form our competition divisions differently than any other sports program. The following age groups shall be used for all SOKS games and competitions:

a. Individual Sports:

- 1) Youth: ages 8-11
- 2) Junior: ages 12-15
- 3) Senior: ages 16-21
- 4) Masters: ages 22-29
- 5) Senior Masters: ages 30 years and over
- 6) Open Age Group: reserved for combining age groups to meet the required minimum number of competitors or teams in a division.

b. Team Sports and Relay Events:

- 1) Junior: ages 15 and under
- 2) Senior: ages 16-21
- 3) Masters: ages 22 and over
- 4) Open Age Group: See above

An athlete's age group is determined by the athlete's age on the opening date of the competition or games. The age of the oldest athlete on a team shall be used to determine the age group in which that team will compete.

**Combining Age Groups:** In situations where there are not enough competitors to hold competition in a certain age group, the athletes should be moved into the next oldest age group or moved to an open age group.