

SPECIAL OLYMPICS AUSTRALIA SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP

In 2017, Special Olympics Australia launched a new initiative to give more people with an intellectual disability the opportunity to participate in weekly sports to achieve their personal best in sports and in life. Throughout the year, Special Olympics Australia have been hosting fundraising events with corporate organisations nationwide and a limited number of scholarships have been sponsored by Sydney-based companies and individuals. We would like to offer you the opportunity to apply for one of these sports scholarships.

Who is Special Olympics Australia?

We're not the Paralympics which is mainly for athletes with a physical disability and elite performance. Special Olympics provides grassroots sports training for people with an intellectual disability, as well as regular competition at local, state, national and international level.

What does the scholarship cover?

- Special Olympics Australia athlete registration fee for 2018
- Weekly Special Olympic club training fees for up to 3 sports***
- Club attire/uniform

****sports which have a higher training fee, for example tenpin bowling and equestrian will have a plan developed between the athlete and the club to allocate the scholarship funding*

Scholarship selection process:

- Application: fill out the application form online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017SportsScholarships>. Once the application is received you will receive a confirmation email from Special Olympics Australia within two business days. All applications must be completed by 9 February 2018.
- Selection: all applications will go into a ballot and will be drawn randomly.
- Notification: successful applicants will be notified by email and phone by 23 February 2018. You will then be introduced to your local Special Olympics club.
- Scholarship commences from February 2018!

Scholarship Requirements & Commitments:

- All applicants must be over 8 years old and have an intellectual disability. Once successful, a 2018 Special Olympics Australia new athlete membership form must be completed.
- Successful applicants will be required to provide updates to the Corporate Sponsor about how the Special Olympics participation is going – this may include photos which may be used by the organisation internally (e.g. staff newsletters) or publicly (e.g. email newsletters). Special Olympics Australia will help facilitate this process.
- Regular attendance at weekly sports programs (no less than 80% attendance).
- Some corporate sponsors may want to meet the athlete so the athlete and carer must be open to a face-to-face meeting.
- Scholarships are only available to people who have never been registered with Special Olympics.

What are the benefits?

All Australians deserve to play sport and feel the joy of a local sporting community. For people with an intellectual disability, who may not fit into mainstream clubs, Special Olympics Australia offers a welcoming environment where they can meet people of similar ability and develop skills at their own pace.

- **Athletes** get fit, have fun, make life-long friends and develop confidence through sport.
- **Families** gain a network of support that helps them understand what's possible which inspires hope for the future.

How to apply?

Click on to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017SportsScholarships> and lodge your application for the chance to be offered a Special Olympics Australia scholarship in 2018! Any questions please contact Mabel Park at Special Olympics Australia by email mabelp@specialolympics.com.au and remember applications close 9 February, 2018!