WE CALL THEM ATHLETES

Distinguish between adults and children with intellectual disabilities. Use adults or children, or older or younger athletes.

Avoid using the label “kids” when referring to Special Olympics athletes. Adult athletes are an integral part of the Special Olympics movement.

Refer to participants in Special Olympics as “Special Olympics athletes” rather than “Special Olympians” or “Special Olympic athletes.”

WE CALL THEM LEADERS

Currently Special Olympics Montana has two Special Olympics athletes serving on the Board of Directors. Athletes serve as Global Messengers, Ambassadors and Media Spokespersons for Special Olympics Montana.

SPORTS TRAINING & COMPETITION DIVISIONING:

• Athletes/teams must train for a minimum of 8 weeks before competition.

• No less than 3 and no more than 8 athletes or teams per division.

• Competition is organized so that, whenever possible, athletes compete against others of similar ability.

• Athletes or teams are divisioned using the following basic procedure:
  - Divide by ability
  - Divide by gender: Male, Female or Co-Ed
  - Divide by age

MEDALING:

Gold = First Place
Silver = Second Place
Bronze = Third Place

RIBBONS:

4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th Place, and Participation

Official medals and ribbons may only be awarded to athletes based on competition results and may not be presented as gifts or tokens of appreciation to sponsors, guests, coaches, etc.

Special Olympics Montana adheres to National Governing Body Rules for all competitions.

Results from SOMT State Summer and Winter Games, along with the State Basketball Tournament are used for athletes to advance to USA and World Games.

WE CALL THEM FRIENDS