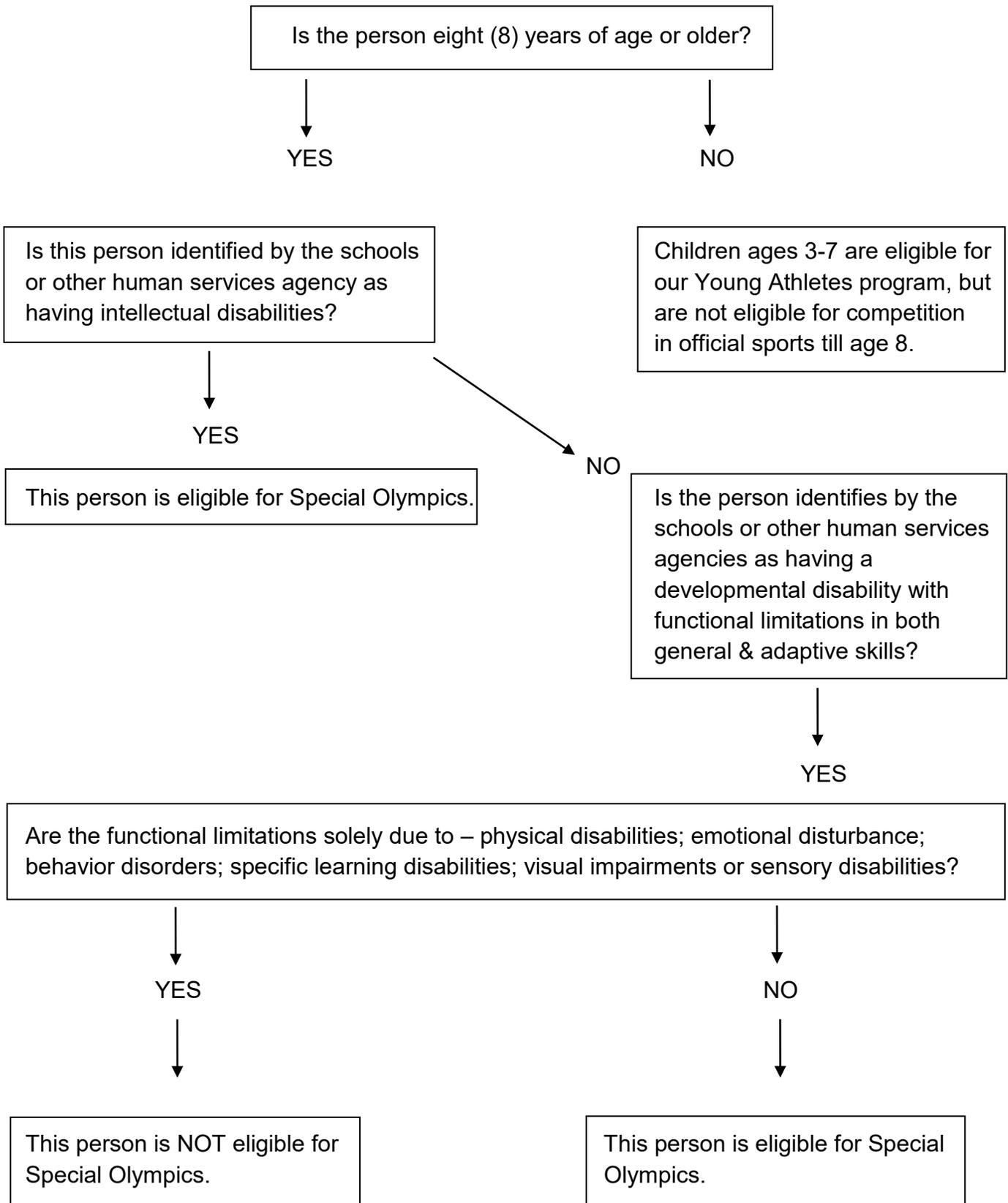


Who Is the Special Olympics Athlete?



SPECIAL OLYMPICS STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY

IV.A.3. Persons are eligible for Special Olympics provided they are:

PERSONS AGE EIGHT AND ABOVE WHO ARE CONSIDERED TO HAVE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AS DETERMINES BY THEIR LOCALITIES. (YOUNG ATHLETES PROGRAM IS OPEN TO CHILDREN W/ INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AGES 3-7.)

PERSON WHO HAVE CLOSELY RELATED DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES•• SUCH AS THOSE WHO HAVE FUNCTIONAL LIMITATIONS, BOTH IN GENERAL LEARNING AND IN ADAPTIVE SKILLS, SUCH AS RECREATION, WORK, INDEPENDENT LIVING, SELF-DIRECTION OR SELF-CARE.

NOTE: PEOPLE WITH FUNCTIONAL LIMITATIONS BASED SOLELY ON A PHYSICAL, BEHAVIORAL, EMOTIONAL, SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY OR SENSORY DISABILITY ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.

- Any person eight (8) years of age or older who is identified as having intellectual disability by a school, an agency or a professional in any given local area is considered eligible for Special Olympics. Other terms that may be used synonymously with intellectual disability include: cognitive disabilities, mental handicaps or mental retardation.
- When the term “intellectual disability” or other similar descriptor is not used to identify the person in a local area, eligibility should be determined by whether or not the person has functional limitations in both general learning and adaptive skills. “Developmental disability” is the term most often used to describe person with both limitations. Other terms that may be used synonymously with developmental disability are developmental handicap, developmentally delayed or severe disabilities.

General Learning Limitations refers to substantial deficits in conceptual, practical and social intelligence that will result in performance problems in academic learning &/or general life functioning. Learning limitations may be assessed by standardized tests (e.g. intelligence or achievement tests) or through criterion-referenced measures (e.g. teacher/parent observations or actual performance samples).

Adaptive Skill Limitations refers to on-going performance deficits in skill areas considered essential to successful life functioning. These adaptive skill areas include: communication, self-care, home living, social skills, community use, self-direction, health & safety, functional academics, recreation/leisure and work. Adaptive skills limitations may be measured by standardized tests (e.g. adaptive behavior scales or checklists) or through criterion-referenced measures (e.g. teacher/parent observations or actual performance samples).

If the person is identified as having a developmental disability with functional limitations in both general learning and adaptive skills. it must be determined by a school, agency or professional whether or not the functional limitations are solely due to intellectual disability or a closely related developmental disability. If the functional limitations are solely due to: physical disabilities, emotional disturbance, behavior disorders, specific learning disabilities, visual impairments or sensory disabilities, this person is not eligible for Special Olympics.