

As Special Olympics Ireland has removed the requirement for a doctor to sign off on the athlete's medical status at this current time, this waiver has been introduced to place the onus on the parents/guardians of athletes or on the adult athlete to ensure that the athlete has undergone a medical before registering with Special Olympics Ireland.

The waiver also:

- Points out that the athlete should not participate in the programme in any manner unless he/she is medically and physically able.
- Seeks acknowledgment, from parents/guardians or adult athlete, of the associated risks of participating in the Special Olympics Ireland programme. As with participation in any sport, there are risks of injury, concussion, etc. that may occur within the activity.

The waiver **does not**:

- Absolve Special Olympics Ireland of their duty to act with reasonable care towards athletes in the programme.
- Cover scenarios where Special Olympics has acted negligently and breached that duty of care.

Instead, the purpose of the waiver is to outline to parents / guardians or adult athletes the inherent risks associated with sporting activities and ensure that they are fully aware that any athlete should be medically and physically fit before participating in the programme. The intention is that Special Olympics will be entitled to rely on the waiver in the event that an athlete suffers an injury while participating in the programme *due to* or *arising from* the athlete's medical condition.

Special Olympics Ireland will assume, that by the parents / guardians or adult athlete signing the waiver, the athlete is medically fit to participate.