

Policy on Fees

A fundamental rule of Special Olympics is the prohibition of charging fees to athletes to take part in Special Olympics activity. This is to ensure that no individual is prevented from participation in Special Olympics activity because of an inability to meet any financial requirements. This is to ensure that no athlete or their family is asked to pay or promise to pay any type of admission, training or competition fee for an athlete to attend, train or participate within the Special Olympics programme.

The sole responsibility for the payment of any costs relating to fees (e.g membership, competition entry fees etc.) must sit with the local Special Olympics programme (club or region) of which the athlete is a member.

However, the rules **do not** state that athletes (or their families) can't help with fundraising for the club and its activities (or contribute voluntarily) – and in fact we agree that they should be encouraged when and where appropriate – but it must be reiterated that it should never be stated that an athlete/family is fundraising on their own but actually helping the club's efforts to fundraise on their behalf.

All clubs should therefore ensure in all external/internal literature and media/PR/publicity that it clearly states it is the responsibility of an athlete's or coach's club that is organising the fundraising to raise the necessary funds towards the costs of going to the competition, event or Games and it is not the sole responsibility of any individual member.

We hope this clarifies the situation on athletes paying to be part of Special Olympics activity.