



SPECIAL OLYMPICS BASKETBALL



Special Olympics basketball begins play on Saturday, January 12th, and will meet every Saturday, except March 1st, from 1:00 to 2:30 (except noon to 1:30 on February 2nd) through March 29th. Practices will be at the Albemarle High School main gym. Athletes must be 8 years of age or older, and both team play and skills training are offered. There is no cost to play!

Dates:

January: 12, 19, 26

February: 2, 9, 16, 23

March: 8, 15, 22, 29 ******(no practice on March 1)******

Time: 1:00 to 2:30 PM ******(except noon to 1:30 PM on February 2)******

WHAT IS SPECIAL OLYMPICS -- a year-round international program of sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with an intellectual disability. Its mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of sports for all children and adults with an intellectual disability, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN AREA 3 SPECIAL OLYMPICS -- a person who is at least 8 years old, lives in Charlottesville or the counties of Albemarle, Greene, Fluvanna, or Louisa, and meets the following:

- * Has been identified by an agency or professional as having an intellectual disability (mental retardation) as determined by their localities.
- * Has a cognitive delay as determined by standardized measures such as intelligence quotient or "IQ" testing or other measures which are generally accepted within the professional community in Virginia as being a reliable measure of the existence of a cognitive delay.
- * Has a closely-related developmental disability, which means having functional limitations in both general learning (such as IQ) and in adaptive care (such as recreation, work, independent living, self-direction, or self-care).

HOW DOES ONE ENROLL FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS -- two forms must be completed and sent in to a Special Olympics representative:

- * An *Official Special Olympics Release Form* that requires a parent or guardian signature or the athlete if an adult.
- * An *Application for Participation in Special Olympics Form* that requires a physician's signature.

These forms and instructions for completing them can be found at the Special Olympics Virginia web site: <http://www.specialolympicsva.org/>, or the Area 3 web site: <http://www.area3specialolympicsva.org> or information can be obtained from Gene Arnold, Area 3 Coordinator, at 973-3185, or email at genearnold@comcast.net