**Special Olympics Allen County program policy:** It is our mission to have athletes and/or families and caretakers take ownership of this program and be committed to be part of a group that provide sports opportunities for athletes with intellectual disabilities, therefore SOAC welcomes athletes from within Allen County.

Allen County is the largest county in square miles in Indiana. Because of the size, there is more than one Special Olympics program to service athletes. You may choose from ARC of Allen County, Allen County (SOAC), and East Allen County.

* Effective beginning May 1, 2022, you are a member of the program in which you originally registered with online. You must commit to ONE of the three programs rather than choosing on a sport-by-sport basis.
* If your program does not offer a specific sport, reach out to them, and help to get a new sport started. This will promote athlete growth in our area. If Allen County has space in that sport, you can request to join Allen County for that sport only. A sports fee, paid from your primary program or from the athlete personally, will be assessed to help offset the cost of that sport. It is the responsibility of the athlete to make the payment arrangements. It is due at the first sport practice of that specific sport.
* If your primary program offers a sport, you CANNOT move to a new program for that sport – Special Olympics is not travel sports allowing for “trying out” for multiple programs. For example, if ARC of Allen offers bowling you cannot move to Allen County for bowling, then return to ARC for basketball. If your county of residence does not offer a sport, any of the 3 programs will welcome your participation based on space availability. A sports fee will be assessed for each athlete.

Special Olympics is a NO cost program for the athletes as the founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver developed in 1968. However, it is NOT a free program. The costs are paid for by the hard work of the county program with fundraising and is dependent on the generosity of donors. We must pay for uniforms, t shirts, jackets, sports equipment, competition and tournament entry fees, gym rental, and facility rental, golf course fees, bowling fees, printing costs, office supplies, and miscellaneous items on a regular basis. We appreciate any support that you can give us as we proceed with our sports programming. We are completely run by volunteers.