



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW ZEALAND

### Life Membership Award

#### Nomination Overview

The award of Life Membership is the highest honour that Special Olympics New Zealand can bestow. The award recognises an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Special Olympics New Zealand at local, regional, national and/or international level. Whilst this award is not presented frequently, there is no limit on the number of people who can hold it at any one time.

#### Pre-requisite for Nomination

Any person nominated for a Life Membership Award must have:

- Contributed to Special Olympics New Zealand over and above routine service levels;
- Contributed for a period of not less than 10 years, (ideally continuously);
- Enhanced Special Olympics at local, regional, national or international level.

#### Basis for Award

Life Membership Awards are given to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the organisation, through volunteering, leadership, or long-term service (including paid service). The following general factors are typically considered by the Special Olympics Awards Committee when considering Life Membership nominations:

- **Length of Service:** A significant amount of time spent as a volunteer, coach, or in a leadership role within Special Olympics. This can include decades of dedication to the movement.
- **Impact on Athletes:** The recipient's positive influence on athletes, such as coaching or mentoring individuals with intellectual disabilities, and helping improve their quality of life.
- **Leadership Contributions:** Active roles in managing or organising Special Olympics events, fundraising efforts, or supporting regional/national Special Olympics programs.
- **Advocacy for Inclusion:** Promoting and advocating for inclusion and acceptance of individuals with intellectual disabilities in society, as well as raising awareness of the mission of Special Olympics.
- **Dedication and Commitment:** A demonstrated passion for the mission of Special Olympics and a long-standing commitment to the values of the organisation.
- **Personal Sacrifices:** Individuals who have gone above and beyond, sometimes at personal cost, in their support of the Special Olympics movement.
- **Teamwork and Collaboration:** A demonstrated ability to work with other volunteers, coaches, staff, and organisations to further the mission of Special Olympics.

#### Procedure for Nomination

All nominations must be made on the official nomination form.

Although anyone may nominate someone for Life Membership, the nomination must be seconded by a registered volunteer, Special Olympics New Zealand staff member or Board member. In addition to this

the nomination must also be signed by the Chair of the relevant Special Olympics Club of the nominee. If the nominee is the Club Chair, then the application must be signed by the Chair of another Club in the same Region.

#### **Submission of Nomination Form**

The nominator shall assemble all material relating to the nomination and forward it to the Special Olympics New Zealand Awards Committee to be received no later than **5pm on Tuesday 30th September 2025**.

The completed nomination form and any supporting documentation must be submitted to:

Email: [admin@specialolympics.org.nz](mailto:admin@specialolympics.org.nz)

Acknowledgement will be provided when nominations are received.

#### **Consideration of Nomination**

The Special Olympics New Zealand Board Awards Committee shall consider the nomination and determine whether a Life Membership Award should be recommended to the Board. Special Olympics New Zealand will advise the nominator of the result of the Committee's recommendation and/or Board Decision.

#### **Unsuccessful Nominations**

The Special Olympics New Zealand Board Awards Committee will carefully consider each nomination. The decisions it makes are final, and no correspondence can be entered into regarding a nomination. Nominations may be resubmitted in subsequent nomination rounds, but it is expected they will include additional and/or more detailed material to support the nomination.