2026 Winter Season Registration Process

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Winter Season Overview:

Overview of Winter Season Registration and Coach Zone.

Most importantly, everyone must be clear through 03/01/2026.

There is no auditing period leading up to competition, if someone gets scratched, they will not be able to complete their forms to compete.

View My Participants/Role & Clearance Status

How to navigate through My Participants, check role statuses, checklists, and expiration dates your participants.

Add Participants to Coach Zone

How to add participants to your My Participants and My Teams

Access/Manage "My Teams"

How to manage My Teams in your Coach Zone. Update/Build your roster for Winter Participation.

Managing Excel file (you will download)

Basic instructions on how to export your Teams list to Excel to sort, filter and manage.

You will need to download this as your final list of participants by 11/23/25 as your roster will be locked and not visible until you get your competition roster from SOWA.

Resources/One-Pager Guides

Where you will find links to PDF guides for you and your participants to reference







Winter Season Overview

Basketball & Cheerleading Dates

Now-11/23

- Communicate to your volunteers (coaches, chaperones, unified partners) that they need to login and confirm that their checklist items have an expiration date after 3/2/26 or they will be scratched and unable to participate. They need to apply for their role to get a checklist.
- Communicate to athletes and their parent/guardian/caregivers will want to login, confirm their profile details are up-to-dates & check athlete health history form is approved through 3/1/26
- Program Coordinators/Head Coaches will update My Teams

 Coaches will not have visibility into the Coach Zone and My Teams unless requested by main program contacts.
- Add participants who are not in My Teams and select their role
- Confirm participants are clear in My Participants
- Add existing participants with "Add Participant" option (see slide with instructions)
- Export To Excel from your My Teams (sport specific) to have access to your list of participants once you have finalized your list of participants or by 11/23.

11/24 (Monday before Thanksgiving)

• Your "My Teams" for Winter season will be locked and no additional changes can be made. That is your final list of participants for Winter Season/Sport. No names will be added after 11/23/25 unless there is a support request received by 11/23/25.

Office Hours, Registration Trainings and direct Portal Support are available at <u>Portal Support Intake</u>

Once available, please review the registration training video before reaching out for support as many of your questions could be answered in the video.

By 11/23/25 - every participant will need to confirm their checklist items expire AFTER March 2, 2026. If forms expire before 3/2/26 and are not renewed, they will get scratched and will not be able to compete in Winter Season

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Winter Season Overview

11/24-12/19

- SOWA Staff will review participants for clearance based on their membership role in your My Teams.
 - (This includes reviewing forms & support requests submitted by 11/23/25)
- SOWA Staff will send Competition Rosters back to programs with participants who are clear to participate (Expect competition rosters to be returned to you the week of 12/15, possibly the week of 1/5 for later competition dates)
- Clearances will be checked and those not clear will not be included on your roster.

People & Roles who are not clear will be listed in the email with your competition roster.

There is no longer an auditing period for participants to get cleared for competition after you have received your roster.

Please note: Due to the Holiday Break

Those with competitions the weekends of 1/17/26 & 1/24/26 (excluding UCS) – completed competition rosters will be due Monday, 1/5/26. Programs will add Events, Teams, Scores to Excel roster and submit to Smartsheets.

- Submitting your updated roster by the deadline is essential for timely reporting by SOWA.
- Any corrections to roster submissions will have short turnaround time.

Most competition rosters will be sent back to programs the week of 12/15. Additional information and roster deadlines will be included.

Office Hours, Registration Trainings and direct Portal Support are available at <u>Portal Support Intake</u>

Any forms or support requests submitted after 11/23/25 may not be processed in time to access or clear participants for Winter Season



Updates to Guide/Things to Consider

Please do not create new profiles for users experiencing issues. Direct them to Portal Support to submit a support request or attend Office Hours.

Athletes Health History & Release form that expire before March 2, 2026 (3/2/26) must be renewed by 11/23/25.

If the Health History form expires after 3/2/2026 and you are unsure if it needs to be renewed, please reach out to Portal Support.

If any participant checklist items expire before 3/2/26 and are not renewed, they will get scratched and will not be able to compete in Fall Season

Confirming Clearances for Participation (In My Participants)

View Athlete Health History expiration dates through My Participants and My Teams.

From My Participants, you can export your athlete list to an Excel file.

View expiration dates for your Volunteers, Coaches and Unified Partners by clicking into their checklist.

If you do not see a participant in your My Participants list, you can add an existing profile using the new Lookup feature or submit a Portal Support Intake request with their name, role & DOB.

Link to Invite Participants guide

If you use this tool, you will want to tell the person to login and accept your invitation.

You must confirm you invited the correct participant after they accept the invite by checking their profile and confirming the information matches your participant.

Health History Forms that expire in 2027 are recommended to be renewed.

There are two reasons we are recommending these forms to be renewed.

#1: Health History forms need to be renewed annually to confirm we have the most updated information for athletes. This includes confirming their profile details before renewing their form to ensure information is accurate and up-to-date.

#2: Some of the health history forms do not have a downloadable file that allows you to access the form offline. Renewing the form will provide that downloadable option for you.

There are some forms that expire in 2026 that qualify for this renewal request. If they do not have a downloadable file in their Health History form, they should renew.







Updates to Guide/Things to Consider

Please do not create new profiles for users experiencing issues. Have them reach out to Portal Support or attend Office Hours.

Information provided on how to manage Coach Zone, My Participants, and My Teams are for all sports.

The dates and deadlines are specific to Basketball & Cheerleading.

Non-competing sports have deadlines in January 2026 and will be specified in their Welcome email.

- If you have new participants, they will need to let you know when their profile is created so you can add them to your Coach Zone & My Team.
- If you see a participant role showing as Pending/Expired and they say they see their role as Active, please ask them to show you their checklist. This likely means there is a duplicate profile and will need to be merged by us. You or they can submit a support request for this.
- Please do not change email addresses in athlete profiles, submit a support request asking our staff to do this. Some email addresses are claimed by profiles and changing those through the Coach Zone can affect ability to sign-in.
- Parents/Guardians/Caregivers need to:
 - 1. Create a profile for themselves with their own information
 - 2. Submit a support request to link their athlete or unified partner to their Register Zone.
- This will avoid duplicate profiles and allow parents to have their own profile to become chaperones or volunteer in the future.
- If they have new athletes/unified partners who have never participated with SOWA, they can "Register New Participant" and create their profile and complete their forms.





Updates to Guide/Things to Consider

Please do not create new profiles for users experiencing issues. Have them reach out to Portal Support or attend Office Hours.

Information provided on how to manage Coach Zone, My Participants, and My Teams are for all sports.

The dates and deadlines are specific to Basketball & Cheerleading.

Non-competing sports have deadlines in January 2026 and will be specified in their Welcome email.

Please review & share <u>Common Mistakes</u> with Health History forms to ensure they are submitted correctly for quicker approval time.

Common Mistakes

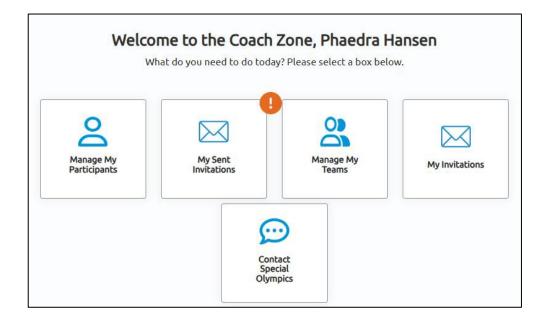
- Athletes under the age of 18 have signed the form, their parent/guardian needs to.
- Guardians sign on athlete field, not guardian field
- Emergency Contact is not listed on downloadable form

If the Emergency Care Refusal (ECR) question is answered 'Yes', another checklist item will populate to be completed. If they answered 'Yes' in error, they can submit a support request to ask us to reset the HH form so they can correct their answer & sign the form again. We can remove the ECR form from their checklist.





Coach Zone Overview



Manage My Participants:

- · View your athletes, unified partners and volunteers.
- Look up & add existing accounts
- · View participant roles
 - Click arrow to left of name to view roles.
 - Active = Clear to Participate
 - Pending = Checklist item needs completing
- Create new athlete or unified partner account

You should only create a new account if they are over 18 and will not be managing their own account, or they do not have a caregiver who will be managing their account on their behalf

Manage My Teams is where you will be able to:

- View your program's teams.
- Add or remove participants from overall or sport specific team
- Create your own team for personal organization.

My Sent Invitations:

View participants you have invited to have access.

My Invitations:

Future feature, other participants can request you to access their profile





(In My Participants)

Sorting your list of Athletes

Sort Athletes by all columns (Recommend by Name or Expiration Date)

If you do not see a participant in your My Participants list, you can add an <u>existing profile</u> clicking "Add Participant". You can add athletes, unified partners and volunteers (coaches/chaperones)

If the athlete is not found using "Add Participant", instead of creating a new profile with "Register New Participant", have the athlete or their parent/guardian/caregiver create their profile. They will need to tell you their profile is created so you can use "Add Participant" to add them to your Coach Zone.

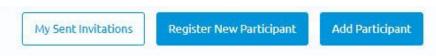
For Parent/Guardians/Caregivers who are managing athletes, they need to:

- 1. Create their own profile first with their own information
- 2. Create athlete/unified partner profile or reach out to support to link to parent/guardian/caregiver managing on athlete's behalf, caregivers should link existing profiles for access.

This can help avoid duplicate profiles and inaccurate clearance statuses in your Coach Zone.

We are currently updating the guide for parents/guardians/caregivers, please refer them to Portal Support or join Office Hours for additional help.

Name	Preferred Name	Age	Profile Status	Health History	Expiration Date	
▶ Jon Barshaw	Jon	38	Complete	<u>Approved</u>	Dec 21, 2025	0
▶ Jon Snow	Test	37	Complete	Submitted	Jan 29, 2026	0
▶ Jonathan Cronin	Jonathan Cronin	36	Complete	Approved	Арг 24, 2026	0
▶ Jonathan Martinson	Jon Martinson	66	Complete	Approved	Oct 17, 2026	0
▶ Jonathan Robbins	Jon	37	Complete	Approved	Sep 17, 2027	0



Link to Invite Participants guide

If you use this tool, please tell the person you are sending an invitation to that they need to login and accept your invite.

You must confirm you invited the correct participant after they accept the invite by checking their profile and confirming the information matches your participant.

See this slide for additional instructions

By 11/23/25 - every participant will need to confirm their checklist items expire <u>AFTER March 2, 2026.</u>

If forms expire before 3/2/26 and are not renewed, they will get scratched and will not be able to compete in Winter Season



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(In My Participants)

Athlete Clearance

You can see their Health History form Status and expiration date.

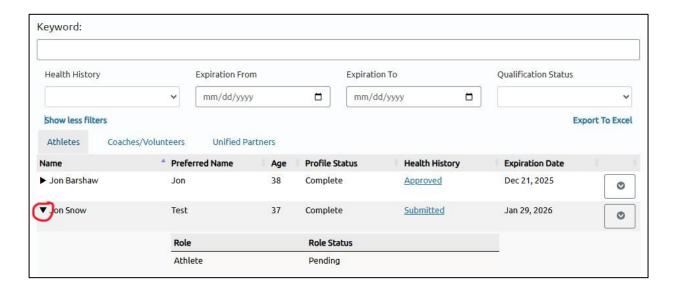
Confirm additional details by checking Athlete Checklist with dropdown to the right of athlete name.

Health History

- Approved = Health History is approved, see expiration date
- Additional Forms Needed/Awaiting Signature = Action is needed
 - Emergency Care Refusal Form should be in Checklist
 - Form needs to be signed (eSign or manual)
- Incomplete/Not Started = Needs to be completed

Things to Note:

- · Can search for athletes with Keyword
- Use "Show More Filters" to filter by:
 Health History Form status, expiration date, and role status
- Profile status refers to their profile details, not role clearance (name, address, phone number, ER contact, etc...)
- Click drop-down arrow to left of name to view the role and role status Should see Athlete Role and Pending, Active or Expired



Athlete Health History Forms that expire in 2027 or do not have a downloadable file should be renewed.

Click into Approved Health History to view & download form to access offline. Please reach out to Portal Support Intake if there are any discrepancies or confusion about athlete roles, health history form & expiration date.

Please review & share <u>Common Mistakes</u> with Health History forms to ensure they are submitted correctly for quicker approval time.







(In My Participants)

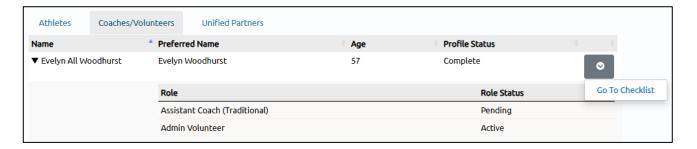
Coaches/Volunteers/Unified Partners Clearance

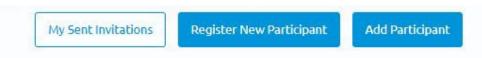
Sorting your list of participants

Search or Sort Coaches/Volunteers and Unified Partners by Name

If you do not see a participant in your My Participants list, you can add an existing profile clicking "Add Participant".

You can add athletes, unified partners and volunteers (coaches/chaperones)
Volunteers must have applied for a role beyond the default volunteer role to be
visible in your Coach Zone.





Link to Invite Participants guide

If you use this tool, please tell the person you are sending an invitation to that they need to login and accept your invite.

You must confirm you invited the correct participant after they accept the invite by checking their profile and confirming the information matches your participant.

You should not be creating profiles for your volunteers/unified partners.

See this slide for additional instructions

- Click the drop-down arrow to the left of their name to show the roles they have applied for.
 - If you do not see the role they are participating as, they need to login and apply for the role.
- Click the drop-down to the right of their name to view their checklist, form status & expiration dates.
 - They will be scratched if they do not have the role & checklist items completed in their profile.

Profile Status refers to their profile details – it is not related to their role or clearance for participation.







(In My Participants)

Adding Existing Profiles to your Coach Zone

If you do not see a participant in your My Participants list, you can add an existing profile clicking "Add Participant"



Team* - click magnify icon to search/select the team you want to add the participant to

Invitee* - click magnify icon to search/select the name you want to add.

Search by email address, full name, or last name.

You may see multiple results. Could be athletes and/or parent/guardians. Profiles with alternate email address are likely athletes with someone receiving emails on their behalf. If you see multiple profiles for the same person, you can submit a support request to have us clean up/add to coach zone.

Select the role of the participant you are adding* -

Member - Athletes & Unified Partners

(once in your team, if someone shows as both, please reach out to Portal Support to correct. They can only be one or the other)

Lead – Coaches

(unless they have existing or requested permissions, they will not have access to Coach Zone/My Teams)

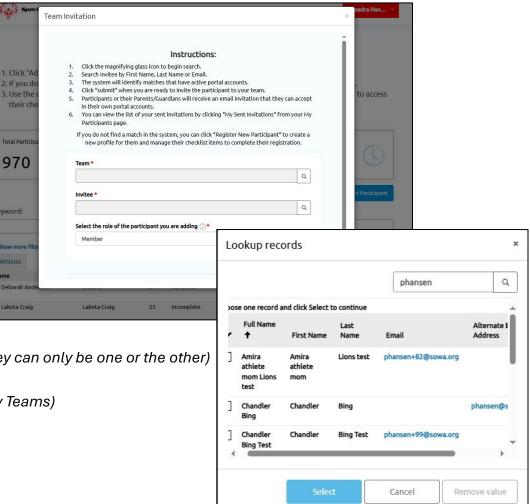
Chaperone - Chaperones

(no visibility or access to Coach Zone/My Teams)

Admin - Coordinators & Head Coaches

(May want to check with Portal Support before adding this role)

Admin are main points of contact, likely included in Intent to Participate/already listed as Admin









Manage My Teams

HINT: MAKE SURE YOUR SCREEN IS IN FULL SCREEN MODE.

"My Teams/Delegations" You will see your program name and sport specific teams.

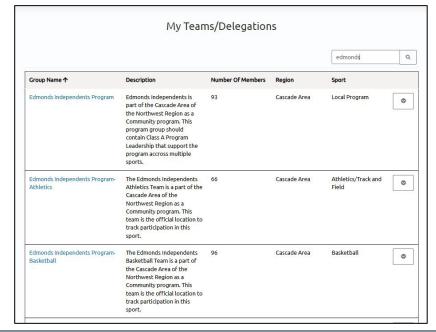
You will need to use the teams SOWA has created. Once you click into Team, loading may be slow....

Example:

Edmonds Independents Program is the overall team.

Edmonds Independents Program-Basketball is the sport specific team that will be used to build the basketball roster for winter season.

- Name (First-Last)
- Role
 - Admin (approved points of contact who can manage athletes & teams)
 - Athlete/Unified Partner
 - Lead (Coach)
 - Chaperone
 - Blank click drop down to update their role to Member, Lead or Chaperone
- Role Status
 - Active checklist items for that role are complete
 - Pending checklist items for that role are incomplete
 - N/A typically for Admin, may want to confirm in My Participants they have the role they are supposed to
- Profile Status
 - Complete (Profile details are complete) or Incomplete (Profile is missing details)









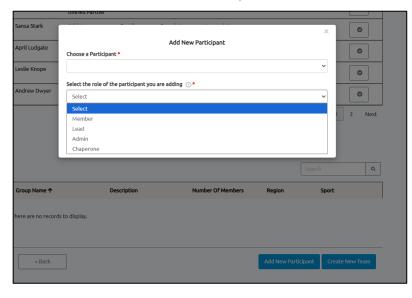


Manage My Teams In the Sport Specific Team, confirm your team's participants.

To **ADD** a participant (they are in your participants list but not in this sport)



Names are listed by first name, A-Z



Select Name & Role

Member – Athletes & Unified Partners (if someone shows as both, please reach out to Portal Support to correct. They can only be one or the other)

Lead – Coaches (unless they have existing or requested permissions, they will not have access to Coach Zone/My Teams)

Chaperone - Chaperone (no visibility or access to Coach Zone/My Teams)

Admin - Coordinators & Head Coach (May want to check with Portal Support before adding this role)

Admin are main points of contact, likely included in Intent to Participate/already listed as Admin.

If someone is in your Participants list but you did not add them to your My Team by 11/23/25, they will not be able to be added after that date. If you do not see the name in the drop-down, they likely need to be added to your Participants list.







Manage My Teams

In the Sport Specific Team, construct and confirm your team's participants.

Remove names who are not participating to help us build your competition roster accurately.

Update role for those without role or wrong role.

Name	÷	Role		Role Status 🌗	Profile Status	Health History & Release Status	Expir	ration Date	Actions
Deanna Neher		Chaperone		N/A	Complete	N/A	N/A		•
Evan Primm		Unified Partner		Active	Complete	N/A			•
Glenn Adams		-		N/A	Complete	N/A			•
Jay Neher		-		N/A	Complete	N/A		Remove Edit Profile	>
John Scanlon		-		N/A	Complete	N/A		Update Role	0

Role Options

Member – Athletes & Unified Partners (if someone shows as both, please reach out to Portal Support to correct. They can only be one or the other)

Lead – Coaches (unless they have existing or requested permissions, they will not have access to Coach Zone/My Teams)

Chaperone – Chaperone (no visibility or access to Coach Zone/My Teams)

Admin – Coordinators & Head Coach (May want to check with Portal Support before adding this role)

Admin are main points of contact, likely included in Intent to Participate/already listed as Admin.





Using Export Excel from My Teams

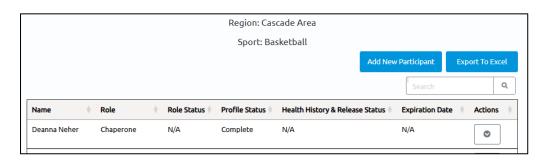
Export To Excel in My Team to manage your roster with an Excel file

If you are familiar with managing Excel documents, you can export, sort and filter as you prefer.

If you are not familiar with Excel, do you have a program volunteer or parent who can assist you with this task?

If you would like support managing the Excel export file, please export and attach it to Portal Support submission and let us know any details in how we can help you with the data.

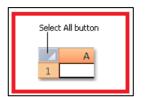
You must Export to Excel once you are finished building/updating your My Team OR by 11/23/25. We will be locking your Winter Sport teams and you will lose visibility until we return your competition roster to you.



In the sport specific My Team, click Export to Excel.

Open. Menu – Data – Sort/Filter

Recommended columns to sort – Role, Name, Expiration Date



4	A	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	
1	Name	Preferred Name	Age	Role	Registration Status	Profile Status	Health History and Release Status	Expiration Date	Roles
2									
3									
3									







Resources/One Pagers

Portal Resources: https://specialolympicswashington.org/portal-resources/

Available Office Hours & Portal Support Intake Form: https://bit.ly/SOWA-PortalSupport

Health History Form: Common Mistakes: https://bit.ly/4jJRS2J

Registration Portal: https://bit.ly/SOWA-Reg for competition roster and intent to participate submissions

Invite Participate to Coach Zone: Click here (if your invitees have not accepted invite, you can submit support request and we can add to your Coach Zone)

Registration Guide for Parent/Guardian/Caregiver/Group Home Staff (someone who is going to manage an athlete's profile on the athlete's behalf:

https://bit.ly/3FTBRZq

We recommend confirming with Portal Support if your athlete has an existing profile before creating a new profile them.

- If there is an existing profile, we can link it to the parent/caregiver profile. If a new account is created, it could end up being a duplicate profile and show inaccurate credential results.
- If the athlete has never participated with SOWA before, you can click "Register New Participant" and complete the information for the athlete. You will then be able to complete the checklist items required for athlete.

The following guides are currently being updated but may still provide useful information

Understanding Participation Status: https://bit.ly/41lliHu

Apply for Volunteer Role (Unified Partner, Coaches, Chaperones): https://bit.ly/3FDJH9v

Class A Volunteers: https://bit.ly/3DTwusG

Registration Guide for Managing on Behalf of an Athlete (Coach/PC): https://bit.ly/41lliHu

Please keep in mind that if you are updating the athlete health history, you are liable for all information.



