



2022 SUMMER SEASON

Start of the Season is June 20



**Special
Olympics**
Washington

Summer Events & Programs



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SUMMER SEASON OFFERINGS

Special Olympics Washington is excited to announce the continuation of in-person training and competition this summer season! Beginning June 20, we will be offering the following in-person competitive sports:

- Softball
- Golf
- Bocce
- Tennis
- Stand Up Paddle Boarding



Programs are encouraged to start securing practice facilities, communicating with their teams on what they intend to offer and begin verifying individual paperwork. Athlete and Unified partner registration packets can be found [here](#) under “General Resources for All.”

Local and Regional Competitions

- Softball – Local & Regional
- Golf - Local & Regional
- Bocce - Local & Regional
- Tennis - Local
- Stand Up Paddleboarding - Local

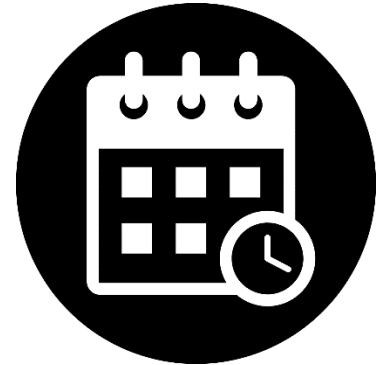
Special Olympics Washington will continue to monitor the status of COVID-19 and will be acting under guidance and advice from the CDC, the Washington State Department of Health, and local health authorities. Please be advised that participation and/or events are subject to change or cancellation at any time. Safety is our highest priority.



TIMELINE FOR SUMMER SEASON

- June 20 – Start of Summer Season
- June 22 – Pre-Season Registration Due (All Sports)
- July 11 – Individual Forms Due
- July 18 – Event Registration Due (All Sports)

SUMMER Season Registration [Portal](#)



COMPETITION SCHEDULE

- **August 7** – East Region Softball & Bocce Competition
- **August 7** – Northwest Region Golf Competition
- **August 13** – Southwest Region Softball Competition
- **August 14** – East Region Golf Competition
- **August 20** – Northwest Region Softball & Bocce Competition
- **August 21** – Southwest Region Golf Competition
- **To Be Determined** – Southwest Region Bocce Competition





SOFTBALL REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

1. Complete online [Pre-Season Participation Form](#) Due: **June 22, 2022**
 - Upload [Participation Roster](#) for each sport

2. Athlete Forms Due: **July 11, 2022**
 - [Athlete Medical Form](#) (Expires after 3 years)
 - [Spanish Athlete Medical Form](#) (Expires after 3 years)
 - Athlete & Parent/ Guardian Signature and Date – **Required**
 - Physician Signature and Date – **Required**
 - [COVID Code of Conduct](#) (does not expire)
 - [COVID Waiver](#) (does not expire)

3. Unified Partner Forms Due: **July 11, 2022**
 - [Unified Partner Registration Form](#) (Expires after 3 years)
 - [Background Check](#) (if 18+) (Expires after 3 years)
 - [COVID Code of Conduct](#) (does not expire)
 - [COVID Waiver](#) (does not expire)

4. Coach & Chaperone Forms Due: **July 11, 2022**
 - [Background Check](#) (if 18+) (Expires after 3 years)
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5. Team Softball
 - Required** for Team Competition
 - Use [Individual BSAT form](#) to gather numbers for the final roster
 - Transfer total individual score from individual BSAT to final roster

6. Individual Skills Softball
 - Use the [Individual Skills Score Sheet](#) to determine qualifying score
 - Transfer total individual score from individual score sheet to final roster

7. Complete Online [Event Registration](#) Due: **July 18, 2022**
 - Attach **“Final Roster”**

Notes: An athlete, or unified partner WILL NOT be allowed to participate if the registration criteria (i.e. current/complete AFP or Partner Release form and registration deadlines) are not met.



SOFTBALL RULES & REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- 1) Athletes may participate in either team competition or the individual skills competitions. No lead up skills will be offered.
- 2) **Head Coaches are not permitted to participate as part of their registered roster.**
- 3) All softball entries must be identified by a team name on the Entry Roster.
- 4) Team rosters must have a minimum of 10 players and are limited to 16 players.
- 5) Unified Team Roster:
 - a. *Ten players – (five athletes and five partners) with the following positioning requirements: two athletes and two partners in both the infield and the outfield, and one athlete and one partner as pitcher or catcher.*
 - b. *Unified with Extra Players (EP). Twelve players – six athletes and six partners: same as Unified plus two EP's who bat in the line-up.*
- 6) Teams should compete in at least two games and must participate in a Regional Tournament in order to qualify for the state competition. It is highly recommended that teams participate in two scrimmage games before regionals.
- 7) For divisioning purposes, Softball Skills Assessment Tests (BSAT) scores must be submitted for all athletes (unless otherwise stated by your Senior Region Manager) on both Community and Unified teams.
- 8) Athletes using wheelchairs and assistive walking devices are ineligible for team competition for safety purposes. They may participate in the Individual Skills Competition. There will be no separate division for wheelchairs, but divisions will be determined by age/gender/ability of athletes.
- 9) Rules governing competition include Special Olympics International rules and Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) rules.

Amateur Softball Association of America
2801 NE 50th St., RR-4, Box 385
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
(405) 424-5266

SOFTBALL EVENTS

- Softball Individual Skill Competition
(Base Running, Throwing, Fielding & Hitting)
- Special Olympics Tee Ball Team Competition
- Special Olympics Team Competition
- Unified Team Competition



GOLF REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

1. Complete online [Pre-Season Participation Form](#) Due: **June 22, 2022**
 - Upload [Participation Roster](#) for each sport

2. Athlete Forms Due: **July 11, 2022**
 - [Athlete Medical Form](#) (Expires after 3 years)
 - [Spanish Athlete Medical Form](#) (Expires after 3 years)
 - Athlete & Parent/ Guardian Signature and Date – **Required**
 - Physician Signature and Date – **Required**
 - [COVID Code of Conduct](#) (does not expire)
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3. Unified Partner Forms Due: **July 11, 2022**
 - [Unified Partner Registration Form](#) (Expires after 3 years)
 - [Background Check](#) (if 18+) (Expires after 3 years)
 - [COVID Code of Conduct](#) (does not expire)
 - [COVID Waiver](#) (does not expire)

4. Coach & Chaperone Forms Due: **July 11, 2022**
 - [Background Check](#) (if 18+) (Expires after 3 years)
 - [Protective Behaviors](#)
 - Sports Specific Training
 - [COVID Code of Conduct](#) (does not expire)
 - [COVID Waiver](#) (does not expire)

5. Complete Online [Event Registration](#) Due: **July 18, 2022**
 - Attach **"Final Roster"**

Notes: An athlete, or unified partner WILL NOT be allowed to participate if the registration criteria (i.e. current/complete AFP or Partner Release form and registration deadlines) are not met.



GOLF RULES & REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- 1) Athletes may participate in one event.
- 2) Per USGA Rules, range finders or devices used to measure the distance of a shot are not permitted (Rule 14-3: https://www.usga.org/RulesFAQ/rules_answer.asp?FAQidx=49&Rule=14)
- 3) Head Coaches are not permitted to participate as Unified Partners during match play. Coaches that choose to participate forfeit their role, also forfeit their duties as head coach including the right to protest.
- 4) Athletes needing use of a cart will need to fill out a 'Cart Request Form' and justify the reason for use of cart on the course. Per USGA Rules, all participants are required to walk the course unless their request is approved. Carts rented by coaches or staff will be a cost incurred by program.
- 5) Unified Partners participating in a pair on course play will assume the role of caddie or scorekeeper. Caddies will not be provided by tournament director, but will be if volunteers are available.
- 6) Team competition will consist of one Unified partner and one Special Olympics athletes.
- 7) Unified partners and athletes must establish a handicap and submit it with their entry. Those unable to establish a handicap will be required to submit at least five scores from nine or eighteen hole play.
- 8) Rules governing competition include Special Olympics International Golf rules and Professional Golf Association of America rules.

PGA of America
P.O. Box 109601
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410-9601
(407) 624-8463

GOLF EVENTS

- Level 1 - Golf Individual Skills Competition
(Short Putt, Long Putt, Chipping, Pitch Shot, Iron Shot, & Wood Shot)
- Level 2 - Unified Team Play (18 hole)
- Level 3 - Unified Team Play (9 hole)
- Level 4 - Individual Stroke Play (9 hole)
- Level 5 - Individual Stroke Play (18 hole)



BOCCE REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

1. Complete online [Pre-Season Participation Form](#) Due: **June 22, 2022**
 - Upload [Participation Roster](#) for each sport

2. Athlete Forms Due: **July 11, 2022**
 - [Athlete Medical Form](#) (Expires after 3 years)
 - [Spanish Athlete Medical Form](#) (Expires after 3 years)
 - Athlete & Parent/ Guardian Signature and Date – **Required**
 - Physician Signature and Date – **Required**
 - [COVID Code of Conduct](#) (does not expire)
 - [COVID Waiver](#) (does not expire)

3. Unified Partner Forms Due: **July 11, 2022**
 - [Unified Partner Registration Form](#) (Expires after 3 years)
 - [Background Check](#) (if 18+) (Expires after 3 years)
 - [COVID Code of Conduct](#) (does not expire)
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4. Coach & Chaperone Forms Due: **July 11, 2022**
 - [Background Check](#) (if 18+) (Expires after 3 years)
 - [Protective Behaviors](#)
 - Sports Specific Training
 - [COVID Code of Conduct](#) (does not expire)
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5. Complete Online [Event Registration](#) Due: **July 18, 2022**
 - Attach “Final Roster”

Notes: An athlete, or unified partner WILL NOT be allowed to participate if the registration criteria (i.e. current/complete AFP or Partner Release form and registration deadlines) are not met.



BOCCE RULES & REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- 1) Athletes may enter one individual and one doubles/team event.
- 2) Competition attire includes:
 - a. Tennis shoes or smooth sole athletic shoes
 - b. Short sleeved button shirts or polo shirt
 - c. Shorts or pants (No Jeans)
- 3) Rules governing competition are the Special Olympics, Inc. Bocce rules.

BOCCE EVENTS

- Singles
- Singles Ramp (*player requires the use of a ramp*)
- Doubles (*2 athletes*)
- Team (*4 athletes*)
- Unified Sports® Doubles (*athlete & unified partner*)
- Unified Sports® Team (*2 athletes & 2 unified partners*)



TENNIS REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

1. Complete online [Pre-Season Participation Form](#) Due: **June 22, 2022**
 - Upload [Participation Roster](#) for each sport

2. Athlete Forms Due: **July 11, 2022**
 - [Athlete Medical Form](#) (Expires after 3 years)
 - [Spanish Athlete Medical Form](#) (Expires after 3 years)
 - Athlete & Parent/ Guardian Signature and Date – **Required**
 - Physician Signature and Date – **Required**
 - [COVID Code of Conduct](#) (does not expire)
 - [COVID Waiver](#) (does not expire)

3. Unified Partner Forms Due: **July 11, 2022**
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 - [Protective Behaviors](#)
 - Sports Specific Training
 - [COVID Code of Conduct](#) (does not expire)
 - [COVID Waiver](#) (does not expire)

5. Complete Online [Event Registration](#) Due: **July 18, 2022**
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Notes: An athlete, or unified partner WILL NOT be allowed to participate if the registration criteria (i.e. current/complete AFP or Partner Release form and registration deadlines) are not met.



TENNIS RULES & REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- 1) Events identified with ** are designed for athletes who are unable to participate in the other events listed.
- 2) Athletes may enter in up to two events.
- 3) For divisioning purposes, Individual Skill scores must be submitted for all athletes participating in the Individual Skills Competition and a Tennis Rating Form must be submitted for all athletes and partners for all other events.
- 4) Competition attire includes:
 - a. Polo shirt or T-shirt
 - b. Shorts or tennis dress (No Jeans)
 - c. Tennis shoes and socks
 - d. Athletes not in appropriate competition uniforms are subject to disqualification.
- 5) Rules governing competition include Special Olympics, Inc. Tennis rules and United States Tennis Association rules.

TENNIS EVENTS

- Individual Skills Competition **
- Singles
- Doubles
- Unified Sports® Doubles



STAND UP PADDLEBOARDING REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

1. Complete online [Pre-Season Participation Form](#) Due: **June 22, 2022**
 - Upload [Participation Roster](#) for each sport

2. Athlete Forms Due: **July 11, 2022**
 - [Athlete Medical Form](#) (Expires after 3 years)
 - [Spanish Athlete Medical Form](#) (Expires after 3 years)
 - Athlete & Parent/ Guardian Signature and Date – **Required**
 - Physician Signature and Date – **Required**
 - [COVID Code of Conduct](#) (does not expire)
 - [COVID Waiver](#) (does not expire)

3. Unified Partner Forms Due: **July 11, 2022**
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 - [Background Check](#) (if 18+) (Expires after 3 years)
 - [COVID Code of Conduct](#) (does not expire)
 - [COVID Waiver](#) (does not expire)

4. Coach & Chaperone Forms Due: **July 11, 2022**
 - [Background Check](#) (if 18+) (Expires after 3 years)
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 - [COVID Code of Conduct](#) (does not expire)
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5. Complete Online [Event Registration](#) Due: **July 18, 2022**
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Notes: An athlete, or unified partner WILL NOT be allowed to participate if the registration criteria (i.e. current/complete AFP or Partner Release form and registration deadlines) are not met.



SUP RULES & REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- 1) **LEVEL 1** – Competition will be a minimum distance of 2 miles with turns (must go around buoy/s).
- 2) **LEVEL 2** – Competition will be within a maximum distance of two miles with turns (must go around buoy/s).
- 3) **LEVEL 3** – (Athletes can either stand, kneel or sit on the board during competition). Competition will be within a maximum distance of one mile with simple turns (must go around buoy/s).
- 4) **LEVEL 4** – Starts the event from marshalling area in the water or on the beach. Can receive verbal and physical assistance during competition. Competition will be out and back within a minimum of 25 meters & a maximum distance of 50 meters.
- 5) **PRONE 2** – Can use any SUP style board (narrower the better). NO PADDLE, use of arms only. Competition will be a minimum distance of 50 meters with a minimum of 1 turn (must go around buoy/s).
- 6) **PRONE 1** – Must be on a prone style board. NO PADDLE, use of arms only. Competition will be a minimum distance of 100 meters with a minimum of 2 turns (must go around buoy/s).
- 7) **Traditional Relay**– 3 athletes per team. Competition will be a minimum distance of 50 meters with a minimum of 1 turn each athlete (must go around buoy/s).
- 8) **Unified Relay**– 3 athletes per team (2 athletes & 1 unified partner) Competition will be a minimum distance of 50 meters with a minimum of 1 turn each athlete (must go around buoy/s).

SUP EVENTS

- Level 1 - Minimum Distance is 2 miles
- Level 2 - Maximum Distance 2 mile
- Level 3 - Maximum Distance is 1 mile
- Level 4 - Minimum 25m, maximum 50m
- Prone Level 1 - NO PADDLE, use of arms only. Competition will be a minimum distance of 50 meters with a minimum of 1 turn (must go around buoy/s)
- NO PADDLE, use of arms only. Competition will be a minimum distance of 50 meters with a minimum of 1 turn (must go around buoy/s)
- Stand Up Paddle Boarding RELAY – 3 Athletes
- Stand Up Paddle Boarding UNIFIED RELAY – 2 Athletes – 1 Unified Partner



VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION



Special Olympics Washington Volunteers are fundamental to every program and event across the state. Volunteer opportunities range from coaching and program management positions to event volunteers. There is a place for everyone!

Volunteers are required to go through further training and a background check process before all Ongoing Volunteer Roles. To volunteer at events, register using the event applications located on the Event Volunteers page.

Please follow this link to sign up as an Ongoing Volunteer:
<https://sowa-volunteerapp-site.my-trs.com/>

It is vital that ALL volunteers are properly trained and feel equipped to execute the responsibility required of their position. Please take the time to review the information on the [Volunteer Resources Page](#).

Already registered but need to renew your [WSP Background Check](#)? Please fill out the form and submit it to the contacts listed at the top of the form.



COACHES EDUCATION

Tier/Level	Action Items	Time Needed	Renewal Requirements	Cost
Tier 1 – Sports Volunteer (Chaperone)	Online Background Check (SOWA will do background checks on all volunteers) (Good Deed Code: e45cri8)	5 min	Every 3 years	Free
	Protective Behaviors Quiz	15 min	Every 3 years	Free
	General Orientation: Orientation Video General Orientation Quiz	20 min	Once	Free
Tier 2 – Head Coach/Assistant Coach Prerequisite – All Tier 1 requirements	Concussion Training	1 hour	N/A	Free
	Certification at a Sport Specific Training School	3 hours	Every 3 years	Training Session Local Area
	Coaching Unified Sports – Required if program is in Unified Sports	1 hour	3 years	Free
Tier 3- Continuing Education	Register to Volunteer at an Special Olympic Event	N/A	All coaches need to do at least one of these each year	Free
	Register for a Continued Education Course			
	Waiver for Continued Education (check website for Approved Courses)			



COACHING TIERS DESCRIPTION

Why Coaching Matters? – Coaching is a vital part of the Special Olympics organization. Our coaches are role models and help improve sports skills in our athletes. It is necessary for our coaches to exemplify good sportsmanship and model character traits to enhance the sports experience for our athletes. The lessons our athletes learn from coaches on and off the field – teamwork, self-discipline, and confidence – carry over into the athletes' everyday lives.

Tier 1 – Sports Volunteer (Chaperone)

The first tier of our Coaches Education program is the Sports Volunteer or Chaperone member of a team/program. Any prospective coach needs to go through these four requirements to be cleared to chaperone a team or an athlete. These are the basic forms that screen our coaches to ensure our athletes safety which is our number one priority in Special Olympics. All of these items will need to be done only once and should take less than 30 minutes in total.

- [Online Background Check](#) (*Good Deed Code: e45cri8*)
- [Protective Behaviors Quiz](#)
- [Orientation Video / General Orientation Quiz](#)

Tier 2 – Head Coach / Assistant Coach

The second tier of our Coaches Education program is the Head Coach/Assistant Coach. Any coach that wants to be a Head or Assistant Coach has to complete all of the items listed below. The items in this tier are more tailored to specific sport needs and require an in-person training. The in-person trainings allow for a development of skills and drills for a sport that coaches can bring back to their practice and games. The online section of this portion will take 1 hour and 15 minutes in total. The in-person trainings will be 3-4 hours depending on sport and venue availability.

- [Concussion Training](#)
- **In-Person Sport Specific training**
- [Coaching Unified Sports](#) – Only required if program/team is in Unified Sports

Tier 3 – Continuing Education

The third tier is the continuing education portion of our Coaches Education program. We want all of our coaches to get involved in other sports and events that Special Olympics has to offer. This is also a great opportunity for our coaches to get more experience with Special Olympics athletes on and off the playing field. We want our coaches to do one of the following each year.

- **Register to volunteer at a Special Olympics Event**
- **Complete a Continued Education Course (Sportsmanship, Principles of Coaching, etc.)**
- **Waiver for Continued Education**



ATHLETE LEADERSHIP

The Athlete Leadership Program empowers athletes to develop leadership skills and utilize their voices and abilities to undertake meaningful leadership roles, influence change in the Special Olympics movement and create inclusive communities around the world.



Want to get more involved as a leader?

Join a local Athlete Leadership Council (ALC)! ALCs are groups of Athlete Leaders developing their leadership skills through projects that improve local Special Olympics Washington programming. ALCs are run by Athlete Leaders and are driven by the athlete-voice.

Want to develop your leadership skills?

Attend an Athlete Leadership Training!

- **Monthly Athlete Leadership Modules:** Learn about a new leadership skill each month. They will be on Zoom for 1 hour and they are open to anyone to take.
 - Register [here!](#)
- **Introduction to Athlete Leadership & Understanding Leadership:** These core course focus on the Athlete Leadership program, your options as a leader and what makes a good leader.
 - When: March 19th and 20th
 - Apply [here!](#)
- **Governance Training:** This advanced course prepares athletes to lead in meetings, on committee and on boards. Athlete Leaders must have taken the two core courses first.
 - When: April 2nd and 3rd
 - Apply [here!](#)



To sign up or get more information about the opportunities above, contact:
Leah Shaffner / lshaffner@sowa.org



EAST REGION CONTACTS LIST

Sr. Manager of Competition & Operations, East Region

Grant Opland

Mailing address: PO Box 727 Colbert, WA. 99005

Email: gopland@sowa.org

Phone: 206-231-6014

East Region Program Manager

Tim Toon

Mailing address: 2815 2nd Ave Ste. 370, Seattle, WA 98121

Email: ttoon@sowa.org

Phone: 206-681-9385 Fax: 206-361-8158



<p>Northeast Area Area Director: Brenda Devine Email: NortheastAD@SOWA.org Phone: 509-998-9778</p> <p>Administrative Coordinator: Bobbi Jo Locke Email: NortheastAdmin@SOWA.org</p>	<p>Southeast Area Area Director: Lori and Ron Landrus Email: SoutheastAD@SOWA.org Phone: 208-413-0883</p> <p>Administrative Coordinator: Kari Smith Email: SoutheastAdmin@SOWA.org</p>	<p>Valley Area Area Director: Tim McDonald Email: ValleyAD@SOWA.org Phone: 509-480-0764</p> <p>Administrative Coordinator: Dawn McDonald Email: ValleyAdmin@SOWA.org</p>
<p>North Central Area Interim Area Director: Alysanne Stack Email: AStack@sowa.org Phone: 509-989-0587</p>	<p>Basin Area Interim Area Director: Alysanne Stack Email: Astack@sowa.org Phone: 509-989-0587</p> <p>Administrative Coordinator: Carrie Hoiness Email: choiness@cityofml.com</p>	<p>Tri Cities Area Area Director: Donna Tracy Email: donnat@arcoftricity.com Phone: 509-947-6090</p> <p>Administrative Coordinator: Kelly Correio Email: so@arcoftricity.com</p>
	<p>Walla Walla Area Area Director: Tracy Gaines Email: WallaWallaAD@SOWA.org Phone: 509-386-4016</p> <p>Administrative Coordinator: Mercedes Robinson Email: sadiesdesiree@gmail.com</p>	



WEST SIDE CONTACTS LIST

Sr. Manager of Competition & Operations, Northwest Region

Nicole Becker

Mailing address: 2815 2nd Ave Ste. 370, Seattle, WA 98121

Email: nbecker@sowa.org

Phone: 206.736.7087

Manager of Competition & Operations, Southwest Region

Dori McGovern

Mailing address: 2815 2nd Ave Ste. 370, Seattle, WA 98121

Email: dmcgovern@sowa.org

Phone: 206.582.6000

Southwest Program Manager

Cheyenne Baird

Mailing address: 2815 2nd Ave Ste. 370, Seattle, WA 98121

Email: cbaird@sowa.org

Phone: 206-681-9386 Fax: 206-361-8158

Director of Program Development

Alysanne Stack

Mailing address: 2815 2nd Ave Ste. 370, Seattle, WA 98121

Email: astack@sowa.org

Phone: 206-231-6034 Fax: 509-396-9902



<p>Cascade Area Area Director: Punkie Doyle Email: CascadeAD@SOWA.org Phone: 206-910-1704</p> <p>Administrative Coordinator: Chris Becker Email: CascadeAdmin@SOWA.org</p>	<p>King County Area Area Director: Lindsey Cornish Email: KingCountyAD@SOWA.org Phone: 209-484-0673</p>
<p>Pierce County Area Interim Area Director: Alysanne Stack Email: AStack@sowa.org Phone: 206-231-6034</p>	<p>Peninsula Area Area Director: Wendy Bonham Email: PeninsulaAD@SOWA.org Phone: 360-461-7817</p>
<p>Capitol Area Interim Area Director: Alysanne Stack Email: AStack@sowa.org Phone: 206-231-6034</p>	<p>Columbia River Area Co-Area Directors: Elizabeth Francis & Barry Gill Email: elizabeth.francis@outlook.com barry.gill@pkinetics.com Phone: 360-624-0119</p>



ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

Special Olympics is committed to the highest ideals of sport and expects all athletes to honor sport and the mission and vision of Special Olympics. All Special Olympics athletes and Unified Sports® partners agree to the following code:

Sportsmanship

- I will practice good sportsmanship.
- I will act in ways that bring respect to me, my coaches, my team, and Special Olympics.
- I will not use bad language.
- I will not swear or insult other persons.
- I will not fight with other athletes, coaches, volunteers, or staff.

Training & Competitions

- I will train regularly.
- I will learn and follow the rules of my sport.
- I will listen to my coaches and the officials, and ask questions when I do not understand.
- I will always try my best during training, divisioning, and competitions.
- I will not hold back in preliminary competitions just to get into an easier finals competition division.

Responsibility for My Actions

- I will not make inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal, or sexual advances on others.
- I will not smoke in non-smoking areas.
- I will not drink alcohol or use illegal drugs at Special Olympics events.
- I will not take drugs for the purpose of improving my performance.
- I will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules, the International Federation, and the National Federation/Governing Body rules for my sport(s).

I understand that if I do not obey this Code of Conduct, I will be subject to a range of consequences by my Program or a Games Organizing Committee, up to and including not being allowed to participate.

Name

Athlete or Unified Sports®
Partner *Circle Role*

Date



COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

Special Olympics is committed to the highest ideals of sport and expects all coaches to honor sport and the mission and vision of Special Olympics. All coaches agree to observe the following:

Respect for Others

- I will respect the rights, dignity, and worth of athletes, coaches, volunteers, friends, and spectators in Special Olympics.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of gender, ethnic origin, religion, or ability.

Ensure a Positive Experience

- I will ensure that for each athlete I coach, the time spent with Special Olympics is positive.
- I will respect the talent, developmental stage, and goals of each athlete.
- I will ensure each athlete competes in events that challenge that athlete's potential and are appropriate to that athlete's ability.
- I will be fair, considerate, and honest with athletes.
- I will ensure that accurate scores are provided for entry of an athlete into any event.
- I will instruct each athlete to perform to the best of the athlete's ability at all preliminary competitions and finals competition in accordance with the Special Olympics Sports Rules.

Act Professionally and Take Responsibility for My Actions

- My language, manner, punctuality, preparation, and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity, and professionalism to all involved in the sport.
- I will encourage athletes to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I will not drink alcohol, smoke, or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics at training sessions or during competition.
- I will refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes and other – including verbal, physical, and emotional abuse.
- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed towards athletes in my care.

Quality Service to the Athletes

- I will seek continual improvement through performance evaluations and ongoing coach education.
- I will be knowledgeable about the Sports Rules and skills of the sport(s) I coach.
- I will provide a planned training program for individual practices and the season.
- I will keep copies of the medical, training, and competition records for each athlete I coach.

Name

Coach or Asst. Coach
Circle Role

Date



FAMILY CODE OF CONDUCT

We hope as family members, you will embrace the spirit of Special Olympics and help to provide a competition and training environment that enhances athlete character and skill development. The following Family Code of Conduct should be emphasized during training, competition, and special events at any level – including SOWA, Area Program, National, Regional and World.

As a Special Olympics family member, I pledge the following:

- I will let my athlete choose the sports in which he/she would like to participate. I will not force my choice upon him/her.
- I will remember that athletes participate to have fun and that the game is for them; not for the family members.
- I will see to it that my athlete's medical form is up-to-date, complete, and on file.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the SOI policies before I complain or protest.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my athlete and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators at every game, practice, or competition.
- I understand that I play a vital role in the health and safety of my athlete's participation. I have a responsibility to assist Special Olympics in providing for the health and safety of all athletes by reporting suspicious behavior, talking to my child about personal safety, dropping off and picking up my child/guard from Special Olympics events at the times designated by the organization (not excessively earlier or later than said established times), and any and all other reasonable measures to assist in the protection of Special Olympics athletes.
- I (and my guests) will never engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct, such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language and gestures with any official, coach, or family member.
- I will never encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
- I will teach my athlete to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will demand that my athlete treat other athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
- I will teach my athlete that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my athlete will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
- I will praise my athlete for competing fairly and trying hard, and I will make my athlete feel like a winner every time.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my athlete or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will emphasize skill development and practices, and how they benefit my athlete over winning.
- I will also de-emphasize games and competition in lower age groups.
- I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire that I may have for my athlete to win.



- I will respect the officials and their authority during games and competition, and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches during competitions. Instead, I will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- I will demand a sports environment for my athlete that is free from drugs and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all sports events and competitions.
- I will smoke/chew tobacco only in designated areas.
- I will refrain from coaching my athlete or other athletes during competitions and practices if I am not the assigned coach.

As a Special Olympics Washington family member, I also understand that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I may be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Verbal warning by officials, coaches, and/or sub-Program and SOWA personnel
- Game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file in the SOWA office
- Written warning
- Game forfeit through official or coach
- Season suspension
- Misbehavior Report submitted to Event Director

I hereby certify that I have reviewed, understood, and agreed to this Code of Conduct.

Signature of Family Member

Date

(Print)

Area Leadership Team/sub-Program



DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Standards of Behavior

While participating in Special Olympics—whether in transit, during practice, at a competition, or in any associated social activity—participants are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship and to comply with the following standards of behavior:

Refrain from:

- Category A
 - Use of alcohol, illegal drugs or any controlled substance.
 - Unwanted physical or verbal sexual overtures.
 - Physical abuse or any unwelcome physical contact.
 - Violent or disruptive behavior.
 - Felonies and misdemeanors (or any other illegal or socially unacceptable behavior which seriously disrupts or impedes participation of an athlete or others) and the possession of harmful weapons.
- Category B
 - Profanity or verbal abuse.
 - Tobacco use in restricted areas.
 - Frequent unexcused absences.
 - Poor personal hygiene.

Disciplinary Measures

In *Category A*, Special Olympics Washington (defined as State staff) reserves the right to immediately suspend any participant, pending an investigation of the offense.

In *Category A*, the Staff member will exercise the following progressive disciplinary measures.

1. Verbal warning given to the offender.
2. Personal meeting with the offender.
 - a. A parent/guardian or caseworker will accompany athletes under 18. The meeting will be documented in writing with copies distributed to the athlete, Senior Region Manager, State Office, coach's file, and parent/guardian or caseworker.
3. Individual disciplinary action taken.

The action may include suspension or expulsion. In cases of suspension or expulsion, a review may be conducted at the end of the suspension period. In cases of very serious or repeated incidents, permanent expulsion may be required.

In *Category B*, the following progressive disciplinary measures are to be exercised by the coach:

1. Verbal warning given the athlete.
2. Written warning issued to the athlete, with copy to Region Sports & Training Manager.
3. Suspension from practices or competition during the specific sport season.
4. Further action must be referred to the Senior Region Manager or State staff. The participant has the right to appeal, with written plan in place, to improve behavior.



DIVISIONING & ARTICLE 1

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules provide standards for Special Olympics training and competition. [Article 1](#) provides general principles not found in the sport-specific rules and is essential knowledge for all people involved with Special Olympics sports.