

RULES AND COMPETITION

The Purpose of Special Olympics Sports Rules

All Special Olympics competition shall be conducted in accordance with Official Special Olympics Sports Rules, which are designed to protect the athletes, provide fair and equitable conditions of competition, and promote uniformity so that no competitor shall obtain an unfair advantage over another. To further this goal, Special Olympics, Inc. classifies sports included in the program as either official sports or demonstration sports, and prescribes the sports rules which govern international, national, regional, chapter, area and local levels of competition. All coaches and interested volunteers should obtain a copy of the Official Special Olympics Summer (or Winter) Sports Rules through the SOTX website at www.specialolympicstexas.org.

Competition

- No players may be added to the roster of a team advancing from one level of competition to the next level unless permission to do so is granted by the area or chapter office, whichever is appropriate for the level of competition.
- For individual sports, competition should be conducted within an event beginning with the youngest age group and concluding with the oldest running. Flexibility of the highest to lowest score or lowest to highest score is allowed.
- All Special Olympics coaches should obtain a copy of the Official Special Olympics Summer Sports Rules (OSOSSR). It is the official rule book modifications for all sports offered by Special Olympics Texas (except figure skating) and contains invaluable information not included in this guide. Rules for figure skating are included in the Official Special Olympics Winter Sports Rules. In addition, coaches are encouraged to obtain copies of the National Governing Body rules for each sport. Special Olympics Texas adheres to all National Governing Body rules, except in specific instances where rules may have been modified to enhance competition. National Governing Body addresses are found on pages V-3 to V-4. Sports rules can be downloaded from the Special Olympics Texas website at www.specialolympicstexas.org. Click on "Get Involved," then "Coaches," then "Resources."
- Entry forms for chapter-level games shall be submitted to the appropriate program/area director who will review, verify and submit them to the chapter office by the deadline. Heads of delegation/head coaches should not send chapter-level entries directly to the Special Olympics Texas chapter office.
- All athletes must be provided with an opportunity to compete in either one local competition or two scrimmages.
- Athletes must compete in official sports attire. Jeans are prohibited, except during bowling and equestrian competition. Hard sole shoes are not allowed. Sponsor logos on uniforms are prohibited during competition.
- A team evaluation questionnaire must be turned in with the area, regional and chapter entries for all Special Olympics teams, including all Unified Sports® teams (soccer, volleyball, basketball, golf and softball).
- Due to safety risks, athletes using wheelchairs are prohibited from competing in the following team competitions: basketball, soccer, softball, golf and volleyball. Athletes using wheelchairs may compete in these sports' individual skills contests should they meet the performance requirements. Motor Activities Training Program (MATP) opportunities are available as well (see page F-8).
- No team shall be able to change its roster by adding new competitors after the first game, round or when the preliminary round is completed. This rule applies to all sports.
- At all Special Olympics Texas events, athletes' and coaches' footwear must be appropriate for the sport involved to maintain safety, comfort and athletic appearance as determined by the games committee.





- No physical contact by a family member, coach or volunteer is allowed in individual skills competition. Verbal cueing is allowed, but no physical contact will be permitted.

Interarea or Interchapter Competitions

Teams wishing to compete in another area/chapter's event can do so provided they do all of the following:

- Do not bypass an event that is offered by their own area and/or chapter.
- Are granted permission from their program/area director.
- Have certified coaches in the sport they wish to participate.
- Notify the Director of Competition and Games of their intent to compete.

Event Divisoning

In keeping with the Special Olympics philosophy that every athlete should be encouraged to perform to the best of his or her ability, athletes are placed in competition divisions according to the following guidelines:

- Athletes shall be divided into competition divisions based on their sex, ability and age.
- Competition divisions shall be established so that they are even. An even division is one in which all participants, based on performance records, have a reasonable chance to win. This definition also applies to team competitions.
- In structuring even divisions, participants shall be ranked in descending order of performance. The difference in times or performance scores between the best athlete and the worst athlete shall not normally differ by more than 10 percent. This rule is known as the "10 percent rule."
- In team sports competition, the team evaluation questionnaire scores and a classification round shall be used to determine ability divisions and the 10 percent rule shall apply to these divisions. A classification round involves teams competing in a short version of the official team sport. Classification round pairings are determined by the team skills scores submitted with the registration forms for the event.
- In gymnastics, figure skating, roller skating, diving and equestrian events, all of which require judging, the 10 percent rule is not appropriate for use in divisioning. Nevertheless, athletes shall be placed in even divisions based upon performance capabilities.
- A division shall consist of a minimum of three and maximum of eight competitors or teams. If there are not at least three competitors or teams in a division, divisions shall be combined to meet the required minimum number of competitors or teams, but only if the sport specifically allows coed events.

Protest Procedure

A protest must be submitted to the Sports Rules Committee no later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the event being protested. A protest can be submitted only for violation of rules, not for judgment calls made by an official(s). The protest form is located on page M-18.

Prohibitive Sports

Prohibitive sports and events are activities which the Special Olympics Sports Medical Committee has determined do not meet the minimum health and safety standards of Special Olympics, Inc. These sports and events shall be prohibited from all Special Olympics programs. Prohibited sports shall not be a part of any Special Olympics competition, training program, clinic, etc. The following sports and events shall be prohibited from Special Olympics:

- Sports: boxing, wrestling, trampoline, shooting, karate (martial arts), fencing, American football, rugby, Nordic jumping
- Athletics: discus, hammer throw, pole vault
- Aquatics: 3 meter platform diving



National Governing Bodies

- The addresses and phone numbers of the national governing bodies for each sport are listed on pages V-3 to V-4 of this guide. All coaches, officials and volunteers are encouraged to purchase sports rule books from the national governing bodies of the sports in which they are involved. A complete listing of the SOTX Sports Menu is available in Section O of this guide.

Special Olympics Age Groups

- Special Olympics age groups have been selected as being the most representative of those used in sports competitions internationally.
- The following age groups shall be used for all Special Olympics games and competitions:

Individual Sports

Youth: Ages 8 - 11

Junior: Ages 12 - 15

Senior: Ages 16 - 21

Master: Ages 22 - 29

Sr. Master: Ages 30 years and over

Team Sports

Junior: Ages 8 - 15

Senior: Ages 16 - 21

Master: Ages 22 years and over

Open age group: This age group is reserved for combining age groups to ensure equal competition and/or meet the rule of having a minimum number of competitors in each division. The open age group is strongly recommended for use in competition where only a small group of participants are entered.

- The athlete's age group is determined by the athlete's age on the opening date of the games or competition.
- In situations where there are not enough competitors to hold a competition in a certain age group, the athletes should be moved into the next oldest age group. In the event that there are not enough athletes within the masters age group to hold a competition, the athletes within the masters age group shall be moved to the open age group.
- The masters or senior masters age group may be subdivided into two equal groups if there is a sufficient number of athletes to organize equal divisions.

Local Competition/Scrimmage

Special Olympics Texas believes in offering as many competition opportunities as possible. While not every athlete can advance to the Summer Games, Fall Classic or Winter Games, they should be afforded every means possible to compete locally. Special Olympics Texas has approved the following procedures to help meet the needs of the athletes while providing additional local competition opportunities:

- Games and Competition Directors: The Sports Management Team strongly recommends that a volunteer cannot be a games or competition director in a competition which they are coaching an athlete or team. However, if circumstances dictate that a coach or volunteer be a games or competition director, they would be removed from any decision affecting the sport in which their athlete or team is competing.
- In all sports, a coach will provide the opportunity for athletes to compete in either one local competition or two scrimmages against individuals outside their own team prior to area or regional competition. The team(s) they compete against may be composed of individuals with or without intellectual disabilities, as well as Unified Sports® teams (school intramural teams, church, civic or scout group scrimmages, etc.).
- It is the responsibility of the program/area director to ensure that the organization and quality of local events are of acceptable standards, and that dates, times and locations do not conflict with any other scheduled event. The program/area director may or may not approve and sanction the proposed local competition. If the request is not approved, then the name Special Olympics may not be used and the local competition is not recognized as an official event that is covered by Special Olympics Texas rules, policies or insurance.



- The application to host a local competition or event must be submitted to the area office, one month prior to competition. Results must be turned in to the area office within 15 days after the competition.

Local Competition Requirements

An application to host a local competition or event must be turned in one month prior to the competition and results must be turned in no later than 15 days after completion.

Opening Ceremonies

- Must include the Athlete Oath.
- Must include a parade of athletes (some sort of acknowledgement of teams participating).
- Must declare the competition open.
- Can include National Anthem.
- Should include greetings from the organizing committee.
- Can include brief greetings from local dignitaries.

Duration

- Local level competition may range from one day to two days.

Funding

- Outside agency funding and in-kind donations may be pursued as coordinated with the area office.

Food

- Can provide meals/snacks/refreshments.

Technical

- Must use qualified officials.
- Divisioning must be done in accordance to SOTX policy and development stage of the sport.
- Must follow Special Olympics Texas official rules.
- Must use proper sport equipment.
- Must submit an official set of results to the area office within 15 days.
- Can have a coaches meeting prior to start of competition.

Volunteers

- Must recruit sufficient volunteers to ensure the smooth operation of the competition.

Administration

- Must develop and distribute:
 - registration information.
 - competition schedule.
 - use of the Guardian System if available.

Risk Management

- Must ensure facility is adequate to provide a safe competitive environment.

Closing

- Can do thank you announcements.
- Can have a dinner and dance.
- Can have a wrap up with the committee.

Scrimmage Requirements

Minimum Requirements

- Divisioning must be done in accordance to SOTX policy and development.
- Must follow Special Olympics Texas official rules.
- Must use proper sport equipment.
- Must ensure facility is adequate to provide a safe competitive environment.



Area Competition

In order to increase the number of sports available in smaller areas, enhance the quality of competition and provide cooperative regional efforts, the following guidelines are recommended for the minimum number of teams or participants required for an area to conduct its own separate area event or tournament:

- Softball – 12 teams
 - Volleyball – 10 teams
 - Basketball – 16 teams
 - Aquatics – 90 participants
 - Gymnastics – 30 participants
- (Numbers per sport are subject to change)

Voluntary compliance with the minimum standards established will continue. No sanctions will be taken for areas not meeting these standards.

The Chapter Sports Management Team will monitor efforts made by areas to meet these standards and evaluate the validity of these numbers relative to providing quality competition. The number of participants required will be reviewed and is subject to change. If an area is unable to attain the specified numbers per sport, an area may:

- Conduct the event within their own area boundaries, inviting an adequate number of participants from one or all areas in their region to participate.
- Conduct the event within their area boundaries as a local event with less than the recommended numbers. However, participants who want to qualify for chapter competitions must still compete in a sanctioned area event.
- Send their area participants to another area's event within the region.
- Host the event for one or all of the areas within the region.

Program/area directors within a region will work cooperatively to ensure that all the athletes within the region have the opportunity for fair and equal competition in the sport(s) of their choice, and that no one area or city is required to host an excessive or unfair number of events. Areas which encounter difficulty achieving the recommended numbers should contact the chapter office for assistance. Areas which do not host the sanctioned area event in a sport will still ensure that at least one local competition is available in that sport within their area. No area will discontinue any event or sport even if the number of recommended participants is not readily available. Area programs will enhance the quality of existing events by including more participants and providing additional competition opportunities through cooperative ventures with other areas.

Regional Competition

Regional competitions will qualify participants for chapter competition if an area does not offer competition in a sport at the area level. A regional competition may not be substituted as the qualifier for chapter if an area competition is offered. Participation in regional competition is encouraged, in this case, as an additional competition for the participants, but will not be considered a qualifier for chapter competition.

Criteria for Athletes Competing at the Area Level

To compete in an area meet or event, the participant must:

- Be at least 8 years old by the first day of the event. Remember, 6 and 7 year olds are eligible to train but not to compete.
- Have a correct and complete Athlete Enrollment/Medical Release Form on file in the area office as submitted by his or her coach before any training or practice is initiated and within established deadlines.
- Have participated in training sessions for no less than eight weeks.



- Have all entry requirements correctly completed by his or her coach.
- Comply with the established deadlines set by the program/area directors for entry forms, etc.
- Compete in at least one local competition or two scrimmages prior to the area competition.

Team Sports Competition

Experts in the field of sports for athletes with disabilities point to the considerable value of team sports. In order for Special Olympics to meet the objective of offering quality team sports competitions, the following rules shall apply:

- There will be one certified coach for every team (not one per delegation) participating in team competition in basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball. (Team or doubles bowling does not apply, meaning each team does not require a certified coach.)
- Whenever possible, a team shall be selected from a local Special Olympics program (a school, center, agency, etc.). No additions to the roster are allowed unless prior approval is granted by the chapter office.
- Combined teams are allowed at both regional and chapter competitions. Coaches must supply a team evaluation questionnaire (TEQ) for the combined team and must identify it as a combined team on TEQ.
- When there is not a sufficient number of athletes to form a team, the following types of teams may be created:
 - Combined Team: males and females from a local program (e.g., school, center, agency, etc.) may be combined into a team. Special Olympics shall not offer separate competitions for combined teams. A combined team shall play in the men's division.
 - Composite Team: athletes from more than one local program may be organized into a composite team. A composite team shall not be an all-star team composed of the best players. Composite teams shall have practiced together for a sufficient length of time so that the members play as a team.
 - Modified Team: an example of a modified team would be to offer five-a-side soccer as a means for developing the sport. Regulation (11-man) soccer will still be offered.
- Divisioning:
 - Each team shall be evaluated during local and area competitions using an approved sport evaluation sheet.
 - Evaluation sheets and area tournament brackets are sent to the next level of competition for establishing groups for classification purposes.
 - Classification rounds will be required in all team sports.

Participation

The following is a partial quote from the Official Special Olympics Summer Sports Rules: "Statement of Participation . . . in team sports, each coach must offer every athlete the opportunity to play in each game."

It is required that every athlete listed on the roster must play during regulation game time. Failure to follow the participation rule will result in a forfeit. The first time it occurs during the tournament will result in a forfeit of that game for the offending team. If that team violates this rule a second time, they will be removed from the tournament.

Additional offenses will result in possible revocation of the coach's certification. Coaches may indicate on their roster prior to the start of the game, any players that will not play due to injury or behavior problems.

Note: The only exception is in volleyball where each player must compete in every match, not every game.



Procedures for Successful Classification/ Divisioning

- Obtain as much information as possible about each team prior to classification:
 - Evaluation questionnaires (now required for all area, regional and chapter competitions).
 - Competition record of league play and/or competitions.
 - Observations during the season by members of the Sports Management Team.
 - Additional information from a team's head coach.
- Based on the information obtained from above, rank all teams from weakest to strongest and note any teams which should be placed in the same division and which teams should not be placed in the same division.
- If the total number of teams is less than 12, one field or court can be utilized with one group of assessors (2 - 3 people).
- If the total number of teams is 12 or more, divide the total number of teams into three equal groups according to their ranking.
 - Group 1 - Weakest Teams
 - Group 2 - Middle Teams
 - Group 3 - Strongest Teams
- Utilize two fields or courts and two sets of assessors (2 - 3 per set). One set of assessors will observe, score and divide the weakest group while simultaneously the other set of assessors observe, score and divide the strongest group of teams.
- After divisioning for Groups 1 and 3 have been completed, the following teams should be brought to the Group 2 classification:
 - Any team which was too high for the Group 1 teams or too low for the Group 3 teams.
 - The two highest teams which have been divisioned from Group 1 and the two lowest teams which have been divisioned from Group 3.
- Combine both sets of assessors and divide Group 2.
- Meet as a divisioning committee and finalize all divisioning placements.

Other Classification Protocols

- The division committee should be made up of assessors who are experienced in both the sport and Special Olympics.
- At least two scrimmage opportunities should be played by each team during classifications.
- Verify that the dominant players are identified by the head coach.
- Establish ground rules for "play" that will enhance the assessor's feel for the team's overall ability.
- Do not be afraid to inconvenience a team in order to assure the proper placement of all teams.

Classification Guidelines

1. Classification – Consequences for team not showing up for classification:
 - Chapter – athletes that do not attend classification (for any reason) must sit out the first game/match that his/her team plays in the tournament.
 - If a team does not show up at a classification, without having adhered to notification procedures by reporting and having their absence approved through proper channels, the team will be scratched from the tournament.
 - Area – areas have the flexibility to enforce a penalty that ranges from no consequences, athlete sits out one game, athlete does not play in tournament or other consequences that the competition committee feels is appropriate for their specific tournament.
 - The important thing is that the area competition committee **MUST** publish the consequences for players not attending classification prior to the classification round.



2. Classification – Who plays?

Chapter and Area – Every effort will be made to see all players on a team, but due to time and space constraints, this is not always possible.

- Unless the classification committee says otherwise for a specific tournament, your entire team is expected to attend classification.
- The best players **MUST** start in their usual position and will be asked to play to their full competitive ability during classification.

Instructions for Bocce Skills Assessments

1. Place pallina ball in the middle of the court at the center line.
2. Have an athlete throw all eight bocce balls (one set) from the 10 foot line.
3. Measure three closest to the pallina ball. Record in centimeters on the skills assessment score sheet on the centerline row. Measure from the edge of the bocce ball to the top center of the pallina. **Note:** 1 inch = 2.54 centimeters. (Hint - record measurements on a copy of score sheet in inches and convert to centimeters later.)
4. Add scores across and record total. This added score = one set.
5. Repeat steps 2, 3 and 4 – one more time only placing the pallina at the centerline plus 10 feet (for a total of two sets) and recording on the CL+10'.
6. Total both sets. This will be this athletes entry for placement in the proper division (lower scores will be in higher divisions).
7. Please note that the assessment of throws at the pallina located at the center line minus 10 feet has been removed from the skills assessment forms. The Sports Management Team ruled that this situation will never occur during competition and therefore the athlete is being assessed in a situation that will never exist in competition.

Note: Online metric conversion: <http://www.french-property.com/ref/convert.htm>

At this site you put in the imperial measurement and it converts to metric for you.

Instructions for Half-Court Bocce Skills Assessments

1. Place pallina ball 20 feet from the end line and six feet from the sides.
2. Have the athlete throw all eight bocce balls from the end line.
3. Measure three closest to the pallina ball. Record in centimeters (cm) on the half court skills assessment score sheet.
Measure from the edge of the bocce ball to the top center of the pallina.
Note: 1 inch = 2.54 centimeters. (Hint - record measurements on a copy of score sheet in inches and convert to centimeters later.)
4. Add scores across and record total. The total will be this athlete's entry for placement in the proper division (lower scores will be in higher divisions).

Note: Online metric conversion: <http://www.french-property.com/ref/convert.htm>

At this site you put in the imperial measurement and it converts to metric for you.

Comprehensive Plan for Equalizing Competition

Purpose and Problem

The purpose of this plan is to equalize competition as stated in the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules. In some instances, not every athlete is presented with an equal opportunity to win a medal, and the sense of accomplishment that the medal represents. Past results have shown that some athletes perform 15 percent to 50 percent better than their entry score. Invalid scores are the result of many factors, including the effects of additional training, increased motivation, faulty or inaccurate score reporting and improved track and weather conditions.

SOTX Rabbit Rule

Why does this rule exist?

Special Olympics Texas feels that the "rabbit rule" is a fairer revision of the Honest Effort Rule that is listed in the SOI Sports Rules. Application of the Special Olympics, Inc. Honest Effort Rule would require any athlete who performs over a 15 percent improvement be disqualified in any sport that has an entry score.

The "rabbit rule" was established in athletics, aquatics, bowling and cycling for the purpose of equalizing competition and protecting against inaccurate entry scores or sandbagging in preliminaries. More information will be shared about these and other sports when and if percentages are established.

Please see the athletics/cycling (Summer Games), aquatics (Fall Classic) and bowling (Winter Games) sections for specific rabbit percentages.

How does the "rabbit rule" work?

The rabbit percentage is determined by using the best score in a heat.

For example, in track events, the rabbit percentage is 25 percent. If the fastest time in a particular heat (M2005) is 20 seconds, then the rabbit score for heat M2005 would be: (20 seconds x 75 percent = 15 seconds). This means that any athlete within heat M2005 that runs a time faster than 15 seconds (over a 25 percent improvement) would be identified as a "rabbit" and would have his score removed in the determination of awards for that heat. The other athletes would move up one place.

If the meet is being run with heats fastest to slowest (athlete awarded in heat in which he ran):

- The "rabbit" athlete does NOT repeat the race and the "rabbit" is not disqualified. The "rabbit" athlete is instead placed according to the appropriate heat (in which his score fits) and is awarded according to this new placement. Because the races are run fastest to slowest, the race in which the athlete should have run has already been completed, and the heat in which the athlete should have competed can be determined immediately. A "rabbit" athlete will always be placed in front of the awards stand as an additional award recipient. That athlete should be announced as the "second/third/fourth place, etc." winner in heat M2004 (heat in which he should have run) as an additional award recipient within the same heat that they just ran (but with the appropriate award place based on a faster heat that already ran). So, a "rabbited" athlete will not take the place of another award recipient - they will be dual-awarded accordingly.

If the meet is being run with heats slowest to fastest (athlete awarded in heat he should have run in):

- The "rabbit" athlete does NOT repeat the race and the "rabbit" is not disqualified. The "rabbit" athlete is held until a faster heat has competed and is instead placed according to the appropriate heat (one in which his score fits) and is awarded as an additional (second/third/fourth place, etc.) with this new heat according to his new placement. The places of the athletes in the heat in which a "rabbit" is inserted are not affected by the "rabbit" score because the "rabbit" is receiving an additional place award in that heat. The "rabbit" will be announced as an "additional second/third/fourth place, etc. finisher" as to clarify that their placement was not due to a tie and stands in front of the place and not on the awards stand. So, a "rabbited" athlete will not take the place of another award recipient; they will be dual-awarded accordingly.

Note: In both scenarios, the "rabbit" receives the same award placement medal or ribbon - only the presentation is different. Also, a "rabbit" should not be reheated into a heat in which he/she finishes first. The only exception is if their score places him/her as the best overall performer in the entire event.

Competition and award directors have the flexibility to run heats fastest to slowest or slowest to fastest. Because of this flexibility, rabbit awards procedures have the flexibility to award rabbits within both scenarios above.

This procedure can be confusing to the casual observer, but the rabbit percentage is in place to protect the integrity of SOTX competition without penalizing athletes with disqualification.





Team Evaluation Questionnaires (TEQs)

Team Evaluation Questionnaires (TEQs) must be turned in with basketball, soccer, softball, golf and volleyball team competition entries. Rosters should still be turned in for each team.

The TEQ helps to quantify – give a number value – to each team. Each question has a value that helps the classifiers “score” teams which assists in putting them in the proper division.

The TEQ should be filled out and turned in by coaches with entries at every level of competition (area, regional, chapter). The questions pertain to starters only unless otherwise noted.

In this section there are TEQs for: basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball (see pages M-14 to M-17).

Local Training Program and Minimum Standards

- Each local training program must have at least one certified coach.
- Each local training program must conduct training sessions reasonably distributed throughout at least an eight-week period prior to the entry deadline for the area competition and/or chapter competition.
- Coaches must record the scores of each athlete on a weekly basis, under conditions as similar as possible to actual meet conditions.
- Athletes should have at least one local competition or two scrimmage opportunities prior to area competition.

Area Competition Entry

- The coach may submit an “adjusted entry score” on the area entry form. If a coach does not feel an adjusted entry score is necessary, then he/she should not enter one.
- An athlete must compete in the same event(s) at the area meet that they intend to enter at the chapter meet.
- TEQs are required with Unified Sports® and team entries.

Chapter Competition and Games Entry

- Local training programs should continue on a weekly basis up to the date of the chapter games.
- Area scores are recommended to be used as chapter competition entry scores. However, a coach may submit an adjusted score.
- TEQs are required with Unified Sports® and team entries.

Determination of Adjusted Entry Scores

Coaches must record the scores of each athlete on a weekly basis, under conditions as similar as possible to actual meet competition.

The coach should select the score that best represents the athlete’s true performance and use it as the basis for determining the “adjusted entry score” as follows:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| ▪ Improvement due to additional training | 0 to 5 percent |
| ▪ Improvement due to increased motivation | 0 to 5 percent |
| ▪ Improvement due to improved track and weather conditions | 0 to 5 percent |
| ▪ Total adjustment | 0 to 15 percent |

Example: A coach has an athlete who runs the 100 meter in 20 seconds. The coach may submit an entry score that reflects up to a 15 percent improvement (e.g., 20 seconds x .15 = 3 seconds; 20 - 3 = 17 seconds) if he/she feels it more accurately reflects the true performance of the athlete.

Use of Special Olympics Awards

- All athletes who start a Special Olympics competition shall receive recognition for their efforts in the form of a place award. First through eighth place awards shall be given for divisions in all competition events. The athlete’s place or finish (fourth through eighth) will be so designated on the ribbon they receive. Ribbons are not awarded for first, second, or third place when medals are awarded.



- Only official Special Olympics medals or ribbons shall be used for official sports or demonstration sports at local, area, regional, chapter and World Games, tournaments, meets, etc., with the exception that trophies may be awarded to teams at team sports tournaments. In no event shall an individual receive a trophy for placement in a Special Olympics competition. Teams may receive team trophies; team members may not.
- An athlete who is disqualified or does not finish a competition shall be given a participation ribbon.
- An athlete who fails to start a competition event shall not receive an award or a participation ribbon for that event.
- Athletes who “rabbit” (exceed the designated variance for the heat) during area or chapter games will not repeat their event. They will be reheated (on paper) into the appropriate heat for their score and receive the appropriate award for the reheated event.
- Special Olympics medals and ribbons are for registered athletes only. They are not intended for fund raisers, giveaways, etc.
- As stated in the SOI Sports Rules, Section Z 2a.: An athlete who is the sole competitor in an event may receive a first place award for his or her performance.

Awards Presentation/Venue Guidelines

SOI Guidelines to Keep in Mind

The Special Olympics awards ceremony provides an opportunity to recognize athletes' accomplishments in a dignified and enthusiastic atmosphere that reflects the Olympic tradition. Therefore the location of the ceremony should be very visible to spectators and large enough for photographs to be taken. When possible, it is suggested that awards be given out immediately following the competition. This highlights the athletes and allows everyone to see:

1. The health, safety and welfare of the athletes are the primary priorities.
2. All athletes who compete in a Special Olympics competition should receive recognition for their efforts in the form of a ribbon or medal. First through third places receive gold, silver or bronze medals, respectively. Fourth through eighth places receive ribbons.
3. Only official medals and ribbons, not any other awards or gifts, may be presented during the ceremony.
4. There should be a sufficient number of awards at venues to allow awards presentations to occur immediately following each ability division's competition.
5. Athletes disqualified for technical rules infringements or those who do not finish will be awarded a participation ribbon on the last position on the podium. Athletes who are disqualified for unsportsmanlike behavior will not receive an award.
6. Award ceremonies should be held near the competition field of play, accessible to athletes, coaches, families, medical staff and spectators, and not require any participant to interrupt another competition or awards presentation to reach them.
7. The awards area should have some method of amplification. Bullhorns should only be used as a backup.
8. The awards area should have a sense of pageantry and color through creative use of pennants, greenery, banners, etc. The Special Olympics banner should hang behind the awards stand. Per Olympic standards, no sponsor signage is permitted in the awards area.
9. Athletes shall display no national flags during the awards ceremony. Please maintain the flow.
10. Sufficient time should be allowed between individual presentations in order to provide family and friends the opportunity to take photos and enjoy the moment.
11. Only athletes – not coaches or managers – may be part of the ceremony in individual sports.
12. Coaches do not receive awards. This is particularly important to remember for team sports when coaches are lined up with the athletes and are introduced over the public address system.
13. If an athlete is not present for the ceremony, stay on schedule and proceed without him or her. Mark awards for later pickup.



14. Awards should be near the competition field of play, accessible to athletes, coaches, families, medical personnel and spectators.
15. If an athlete receives the incorrect award, give the correct award, but do not take away the original award.
16. Any protest or complaint should be dealt with/resolved by the competition management (e.g., Sports Rules Committee). It is not the responsibility of the awards personnel to deal with any protest.
17. The protocol of the awards ceremony must be followed at all times.

SOTX Awards Guidelines

1. Subscribe to the SOI Guidelines as stated.
2. Require specific jobs, as defined in the games director/competition director manuals.
3. Use of awards venues functionality, suggestions and procedures, as given in the games director/competition director manuals.
4. Follow procedures for a successful awards venue: pageantry, sound system, volunteers, design, athletes, facilities.
5. Follow minimum requirements for equipment.

Application to Host a Local Competition or Event

This report is due one month prior to the competition and results are due to the area office 15 days prior to the date of competition.

Organization (submitting application)

Area:		
Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP:
Telephone:	E-mail:	

Competition Director

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP:
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	E-mail:

Name of event: _____ Date: _____

Facility for event: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

Areas or teams involved: _____

Sport(s) offered: _____

Do you have an emergency plan available? (If yes, please attach.) Yes No

Reviewed local competition requirements? Yes No

Support agencies (attach a separate sheet if necessary)

Name	Type of support	Cash	and/or	In-kind estimate
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
(Program/Area Director)

SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEXAS

Basketball Team Evaluation Questionnaire

Delegation Name: _____ Delegation ID: _____
Team Name: _____ Head Coach: _____

TEO is for: Traditional 5-a-side Unified 5-a-side 3 on 3
Does the team plan to press? Yes No

All questions pertain to your best 5 players. (There should be no answers greater than 5.)

OFFENSE

How many players:

- Can dribble the ball up the court with token pressure (not attempting to steal ball)? _____
- Can dribble the ball up the court with aggressive defensive pressure (trying to steal the ball)? _____
- Can dribble the ball well enough to create their own shot? _____
- Can shoot the ball consistently by at least hitting the rim within 10 feet of the basketball 50% of the time? _____
- Can look over the court, find the open teammate and create a pass that will get to the player 50% of the time without pressure? _____
- Can shoot the ball consistently from outside of 15 feet by making the basket 33% of the time? _____

DEFENSE

How many players:

- Will aggressively go after loose balls and passes made by opponents? _____
- Understand defense and either stay with their assigned player or cover their area of the zone defense? _____
- Will aggressively jump up and go after a rebound (both offensive and defensive rebounds)? _____
- Will see the court and help out a teammate who is going to be scored upon? _____
- Can cover a dominant opponent and keep them from scoring 50% of the time? _____

DOMINANCE

- How many dominant players (players who understand the game, anticipate where the ball will go, move aggressively for the ball and can dominate with their scoring) do you have in your starting five? _____

Identify by name and jersey number if possible:

Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____ Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____
Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____ Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____

SUBS

- How many subs do you have? _____
- Does it make a significant difference in your team if you substitute 1 or 2 subs at the same time? _____

If yes, please explain. _____

OVERALL

- Is this the same team which played in last year's area? regional? and/or state? (Check all that apply)
- Is this team: lower? higher? the same? Please check only one box and explain.

- On a scale of 1-10, with a 1 being a level just above individual skills and 10 being just below an average Unified Sports team, please rank the ability level of your team. _____

Note: This sheet will be utilized for pre-classification, compared to the classification evaluations, and utilized throughout play as needed.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEXAS

Softball Team Evaluation Questionnaire

Delegation Name: _____ Delegation ID: _____
Team Name: _____ Head Coach: _____

Softball Event Code: SBTEAM SBTMUN SBCHPH SBCOED SBSTEE

All questions pertain to your best 10 players. (There should be no answers greater than 10.)

PITCHING

- On average, your starting pitcher walks 0 1 2 3+ batters per inning. (Check one.)
- Check the furthest distance from which your pitcher can pitch: 40 ft. 45 ft. 50 ft.

DEFENSE

- Your pitcher is able to successfully field balls hit back towards the pitching area and make the play to first base 0% 25% 50% 75% 100% of the time. (Check the highest percentage.)
- Your first baseman consistently catches balls thrown within arms reach 0% 25% 50% 75% 100% of the time. (Check the highest percentage.)
- Which infielders will field a ground ball and throw to the appropriate base 50% of the time?
1B 2B SS 3B (Check each position which meets stated criteria.)
- Which outfielders will catch a fly ball hit within 3 steps of them either direction 50% of the time?
LF LC RC RF (Check each position which meets stated criteria.)

HITTING

How many hitters:

- Can make contact with the ball 50% of the time? _____
- Can hit the ball with enough force to get the ball out of the infield 50% of the time? _____
- Can hit the ball with enough force to get the ball past the outfielders 50% of the time? _____
- Can hit the ball in any direction they would like 50% of the time? _____

TEAM PLAY

- How many of your players understand and demonstrate the strategy of the game (which base to throw to, running bases aggressively, knowledge of the strike zone)? _____

DOMINANCE

- Do you have dominant player(s) on the team that can have a major impact on the success of your team in a game? _____

Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____ Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____
Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____ Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____

SUBS

- How many subs do you have? _____
- Does it make a significant difference in your team if you substitute 1 or 2 subs at the same time? _____

If yes, please explain. _____

OVERALL

- Is this the same team which played in last year's area? regional? and/or state? (Check all that apply.)
- Is this team: lower? higher? the same? _____

Please check only one box and explain. _____

- On a scale of 1-10, with a 1 being a level just above individual skills and 10 being just below an average Unified Sports team, please rank the ability level of your team. _____

Note: This sheet will be utilized for pre-classification, compared to the classification evaluations, and utilized throughout play as needed.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEXAS

Soccer Team Evaluation Questionnaire

Delegation Name: _____ Delegation ID: _____
Team Name: _____ Head Coach: _____

TEQ is for: 5-a-side Unified 5-a-side 11-a-side Unified 11-a-side

All questions pertain to your best 5 players. (There should be no answers greater than 5.)

OFFENSE

How many players:

- Can dribble the ball up the field with token defensive pressure (not attempting to steal ball)? _____
- Can dribble the ball up the field with aggressive defensive pressure (attempting to steal ball)? _____
- Can dribble the ball well enough to create a scoring opportunity with defensive pressure? _____
- Can pass the ball to an open teammate 50% of the time? _____
- Can shoot the ball on goal with enough power to go past a goalkeeper from 15 yards away 50% of the time? _____

DEFENSE

How many players:

- Can clear the ball (kick it) over 20 yards up the field? _____
- Will aggressively go after a loose ball on the field? _____

GOALKEEPING

- Goalkeeper can block a shot coming directly at him/her
0% 25% 50% 75% 90% of the time. (Check the highest percentage.)
- Goalkeeper can catch a shot coming directly at him/her
0% 25% 50% 75% 90% of the time. (Check the highest percentage.)
- Goalkeeper can move to save (prevent from scoring) shots that are on goal but not going directly at him/her
0% 25% 50% 75% 90% of the time. (Check the highest percentage.)

TEAM PLAY

- How many dominant players (players who understand the game, anticipate where the ball will go, move aggressively for the ball and can dominate with their scoring) do you have in your starting five? _____

Identify by name and jersey number if possible:

Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____ Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____
Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____ Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____

SUBS

- How many subs do you have? _____
- Does it make a significant difference in your team if you substitute 1 or 2 subs at the same time? _____

If yes, please explain. _____

OVERALL

- Is this the same team which played in last year's area? regional? and/or state? (Check all that apply.)
- Is this team: lower? higher? the same?

Please check only one box and explain. _____

- On a scale of 1-10, with a 1 being a level just above individual skills and 10 being just below an average Unified Sports team, please rank the ability level of your team. _____

Note: This sheet will be utilized for pre-classification, compared to the classification evaluations, and utilized throughout play as needed.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEXAS

Volleyball Team Evaluation Questionnaire

Delegation Name: _____ Delegation ID: _____
Team Name: _____ Head Coach: _____

TEQ if for: Traditional Team Unified Team

All questions pertain to your best 6 players. (There should be no answers greater than 6.)

SERVING

How many players:

- Must use a modified service line to get the ball over the net? _____
- How many can get the ball over the net 50% of the time from the modified service line? _____
- Can serve over the net from the baseline 50% of the time? _____
- Can serve over hand? _____
- Can serve to a designated spot on the court 2 out of 3 times? _____

RECEIVING

How many players:

- Can receive a serve and keep the ball in play 50% of the time? _____
- Can return a serve with a single hit 50% of the time? _____
- Will move to hit a ball close to them (within a step)? _____
- Cover their responsible area (within 3 or 5 steps)? _____
- Will move to defense teammates' area (outside of own area)? _____
- Will move anywhere on the court to try and save a bad hit from a teammate? _____

VOLLEYING AND PLAYING

- As a whole, team usually hits the ball back with: Single hit Multiple hit (Check only one)
- As a whole, team follows VB rules with
No Prompts Occasional Prompts Many Prompts Constant Prompts (Check only one)

How many players:

- Can block at the net? _____
- Can pass to others on the team? _____
- Can set (for spiking) to others on the team? _____
- Can spike (floor or jump)? _____
- Are aware of game and action around them? (e.g., the net, out of bounds, rotating, can anticipate next hit) _____

DOMINANCE

- Do you have dominant player(s) on the team that can have a major impact on the success of your team in a game? _____

Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____ Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____
Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____ Player Name: _____ Jersey #: _____

SUBS

How many subs do you have? _____

Does it make a significant difference in your team if you substitute 1 or 2 subs at the same time? _____

If yes, please explain. _____

OVERALL

Is this the same team which played in last year's area? regional? and/or state? (Check all that apply.)

Is this team: lower? higher? the same?

Please check only one box and explain. _____

On a scale of 1-10, with a 1 being a level just above individual skills and 10 being just below an average Unified Sports team, please rank the ability level of your team. _____

Note: This sheet will be utilized for pre-classification, compared to the classification evaluations, and utilized throughout play as needed.

Special Olympics Texas Protest Form

Form must be submitted to the sport rules committee NO LATER than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the event being protested.

Date:	Time Submitted:
Sport:	Event:
Age Group:	Division (Heat):
Athlete or Team Name:	
Identification Number:	
Delegation Code:	
Reason for Protest (please explain below)	
Signature of Sport Head Coach:	
Division of Jury/Referee:	
Protest Approved:	
Protest Denied:	
Signed:	
Time:	

Bocce Half-Court Skills Assessment

Total: _____

Team Name: _____ Head Coach: _____

Team Code: _____

Name: _____

Male/Female: _____

Age: _____

Place pallina 20 feet from endline, 6 feet from sides.

Set	Distance (cm)			Total

Measure from the edge of the bocce ball to the top center of the pallina.

Updated 11/11/05

Bocce Half-Court Skills Assessment

Total: _____

Team Name: _____ Head Coach: _____

Team Code: _____

Name: _____

Male/Female: _____

Age: _____

Place pallina 20 feet from endline, 6 feet from sides.

Set	Distance (cm)			Total

Measure from the edge of the bocce ball to the top center of the pallina.

Updated 11/11/05

Bocce Team Skills Assessment

Total: _____

Team Name: _____ Head Coach: _____

Team Code: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Male/Female: _____ Male/Female: _____

Age: _____ Age: _____

Player A

Player B

Set	Distance (cm)			Total
CL				
CL+10 ft.				
Total				

Set	Distance (cm)			Total
CL				
CL+10 ft.				
Total				

Name: _____

Name: _____

Male/Female: _____

Male/Female: _____

Age: _____

Age: _____

Player C

Player D

Set	Distance (cm)			Total
CL				
CL+10 ft.				
Total				

Set	Distance (cm)			Total
CL				
CL+10 ft.				
Total				

Totals: A + B + C + D = _____

Measure from the edge of the bocce ball to the top center of the pallina.

Updated 11/11/05

Bocce Doubles Skills Assessment

Total: _____

Team Name: _____ Head Coach: _____

Team Code: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Male/Female: _____ Male/Female: _____

Age: _____ Age: _____

Player A

Player B

Set	Distance (cm)			Total
CL				
CL+10 ft.				
Total				

Set	Distance (cm)			Total
CL				
CL+10 ft.				
Total				

Doubles Total: A + B = _____

Measure from the edge of the bocce ball to the top center of the pallina.

Updated 11/11/05

Bocce Doubles Skills Assessment

Total: _____

Team Name: _____ Head Coach: _____

Team Code: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Male/Female: _____ Male/Female: _____

Age: _____ Age: _____

Player A

Player B

Set	Distance (cm)			Total
CL				
CL+10 ft.				
Total				

Set	Distance (cm)			Total
CL				
CL+10 ft.				
Total				

Doubles Total: A + B = _____

Measure from the edge of the bocce ball to the top center of the pallina.

Updated 11/11/05

Bocce Singles Skills Assessment

Total: _____

Team Name: _____ Head Coach: _____

Team Code: _____

Name: _____

Male/Female: _____

Age: _____

Set	Distance (cm)			Total
CL				
CL+10 ft.				
Total				

Measure from the edge of the bocce ball to the top center of the pallina.

Updated 11/11/05

Bocce Singles Skills Assessment

Total: _____

Team Name: _____ Head Coach: _____

Team Code: _____

Name: _____

Male/Female: _____

Age: _____

Set	Distance (cm)			Total
CL				
CL+10 ft.				
Total				

Measure from the edge of the bocce ball to the top center of the pallina.

Updated 11/11/05