



Special Olympics
South Dakota

2024 COMPETITION GUIDE



**Special
Olympics**
South Dakota

800 E. I-90 Lane
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Local: 605.331.4117
Toll Free: 1.800.585.2114
Fax: 605.331.4328
www.sosd.org

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Important Changes / Reminders

NEW THIS YEAR:

- An MATP division in Equestrian
- Lunch will NOT be provided at State Unified Bowling Tournaments
- There will be NO registration fees for most SOSD events. The exceptions are Summer Games (housing) and Equestrian (camping and woodchips)
- Due to extremely low registration numbers, Race Walking will no longer be offered as a stand-alone event.
- There is a new and improved Athlete Medical Form. Beginning January 1, 2024, this is the ONLY form to be used.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- **When completing your registration forms, it is *imperative* for you to spell names correctly and to include both first and last names.**
- Forms: Forms A, B and Athlete Medical Form MUST be on file with the state office one week prior to events, i.e., these forms WILL NOT be accepted during the check-in process at events.
- Reporting: In the case of an accident/incident, follow these steps: 1) As soon as possible, contact your HOD. 2) In conjunction with your HOD, complete FORM I - First Report of Accident. 3) Submit the completed form to the State Office.
- Appropriate Uniforming: It is very important for athletes to wear appropriate uniforms/attire while practicing and competing. Examples of inappropriate attire include athletes competing in blue jeans at Spring / Summer Games or gym shorts at Equestrian. Sponsor's names or logos CANNOT appear on athlete's competitive uniforms. Please see individual sports handbooks for specific guidelines.
- Registration Deadlines: A deadline will be set for each competition. Registration must be received (NOT POSTMARKED) by 5:00pm that day. There will be absolutely no exceptions. This applies to area as well as state events.
- Mailing List: Please notify us of coaching changes so vital information gets to the correct person.
- If you wish to receive an up-to-date coach's certification list or an athlete medical expiration list, please contact your Area Director.

Welcome To Special Olympics South Dakota!

The Special Olympics South Dakota Competition Guide and Sports Handbooks have been designed to enable coaches, agency representatives, and families to prepare their athletes and programs to take part in area and state competitions offered by Special Olympics South Dakota (SOSD).

Please make copies of this guide and share it with your sport-specific coaches. Protect your copy as it contains all state and area registration forms and other valuable information to ensure your program's successful involvement in the next year. THANK YOU, coaches, for your commitment, time, and effort in making Special Olympics a quality sports program.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

PHILOSOPHY

Special Olympics is founded on the belief that people with intellectual disabilities can, with proper instruction and encouragement, learn, enjoy and benefit from participation in individual and team sports, adapted as necessary to meet the needs of those with intellectual and physical limitations.

Special Olympics believes that consistent training, with emphasis on physical conditioning, is essential to the development of sports skills, and that competition among those of equal abilities is the most appropriate means of testing these skills, measuring progress and providing incentives for personal growth.

Special Olympics believes that through sports training and competition, people with intellectual disabilities benefit physically, mentally, socially and spiritually; families are strengthened; and the community at large, both through participation and observation, is united with people with intellectual disabilities in an environment of equality, respect and acceptance.

Special Olympics believes that every person with intellectual disabilities who is at least eight years old should have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from sports training and competition. Special Olympics also permits individual programs to accept children aged six and seven for training, but these children may not participate in Special Olympics competitions.

2024 Competition Schedule

AREA/STATE WINTER GAMES

For Details call Special Olympics Wyoming: 1.307.235.3062

AREA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS

NE Area Tournament

Date: February 16, 2024

Location: Hamlin High School, Hayti

Time: 8:30am

Registration Deadline: February 5, 2024

BH Area Tournament

Date: February 23, 2024

Location: School of Mines, Rapid City

Time: 9:00am

Registration Deadline: February 5, 2024

SE Area Tournament

Date: March 2, 2024

Location: Middle School, Yankton

Time: 9:00am

Registration Deadline: February 5, 2024

STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Date: March 23 & 24, 2024

Location: Mitchell

Competition: Team, Unified Team, Individual Skills, & Cheerleading Competition

Registration Deadline: February 5, 2024

AREA SPRING GAMES

Mission Games

Date: April 24, 2024

Location: High School Track, Mission

Time: 1:00pm-3:30pm

Registration Deadline: April 8, 2024

NE Area Swimming

Date: April 26, 2024

Location: Prairie Lakes Wellness Center, Watertown

Time: 12:00pm-4:00pm

Registration Deadline: April 8, 2024

BH Area Athletics

Date: April 26, 2024

Location: Sioux Park, Rapid City

Time: 9:00am-4:00pm

Registration Deadline: April 8, 2024

BH Area Swimming

Date: April 27, 2024

Location: Young Center, Spearfish

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Registration Deadline: April 8, 2024

SE Area Athletics

Date: April 27, 2024

Location: Brandon High School, Brandon

Time: 8:00am-3:30pm

Registration Deadline: April 8, 2024

SE Area Swimming

Date: May 3, 2024

Location: Midco Aquatics Center, Sioux Falls

Time: 1:00pm-5:00pm

Registration Deadline: April 8, 2024

NE Area Athletics

Date: May 3, 2024

Location: High School Track, Milbank

Time: 8:00am-3:30pm

Registration Deadline: April 8, 2024

STATE SUMMER GAMES

Date: May 16-18, 2024

Location: University of South Dakota, Vermillion

Competition: Volleyball, Volleyball Skill, Team Soccer, Swimming, Powerlifting, Individual Soccer Skills, Athletics

Registration Deadline: April 8, 2024

STATE EQUESTRIAN COMPETITION

Date: July 15 & 16, 2024

Location: State Fair Grounds, Huron

Competition: English Equitation, Western Equitation, Hard Surface Equitation, Working Trail, Barrel Racing, Showmanship at Halter, Showmanship at Bridle, MATP

Registration Deadline: June 24, 2024

AREA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS

BH Area Tournament

Date: August 17, 2024

Location: Star of the West, Rapid City

Time: 9:30am

Registration Deadline: July 29, 2024

SE Area Tournament

Date: August 17, 2024

Location: Sherman Park Softball Complex, Sioux Falls

Time: 9:30am

Registration Deadline: July 29, 2024

AREA BOCCE TOURNAMENTS

BH Area Tournament

Date: August 18, 2024

Location: Rapid City Bocce Courts, Rapid City

Time: 8:00am

Registration Deadline: July 29, 2024

SE Area Tournament

Date: August 18, 2024 **Tentative**
Location: McCart Fields, Sioux Falls
Time: 9:30am
Registration Deadline: July 29, 2024

NE Area Tournament

Date: August 25, 2024 **Tentative**
Location: TBD, Lake Norden
Time: 9:30am
Registration Deadline: July 29, 2024

FALL CLASSIC

BOCCE

Date: September 20, 2024
Registration Deadline: July 29, 2024
Competition: Traditional Doubles, Unified Doubles
Location: Rapid City Bocce Courts, Rapid City

SOFTBALL

Date: September 21 & 22, 2024
Registration Deadline: July 29, 2024
Competition: Slow-Pitch, Unified Slow-Pitch, Tee Ball, Coach Pitch
Location: Parkview Softball Complex, Rapid City

AREA BOWLING TOURNAMENTS

NE Area Unified Doubles Bowling

Date: October 10, 2024
Location: Tommy Lanes, Watertown
Time: 9:00am-11:30am
Registration Deadline: September 30, 2024

NE Area Singles Bowling

Date: October 11, 2024
Location: Village Bowl, Aberdeen
Time: 9:00am-11:30am / 11:30am-2:00pm / 2:00pm-4:30pm
Registration Deadline: September 30, 2024

BH Area Singles Bowling

Date: October 11, 2024
Location: Meadowood Lanes, Rapid City
Time: 9:00am-11:30am / 11:30am-2:00pm / 2:00pm-4:30pm
Registration Deadline: September 30, 2024

BH Area Unified Doubles Bowling

Date: October 12, 2024
Location: Meadowood Lanes, Rapid City
Time: 1:00pm-3:30pm
Registration Deadline: September 30, 2024

SE Area Singles Bowling

Date: October 12, 2024
Location: Eastway Bowl, Sioux Falls
Time: 9:00am-11:30am / 11:30am-2:00pm / 2:00pm-4:30pm
Registration Deadline: September 30, 2024

SE Area Unified Doubles Bowling

Date: October 13, 2024
Location: Eastway Bowl, Sioux Falls
Time: 9:00am-11:30am / 11:30am-2:00pm / 2:00pm-4:30pm
Registration Deadline: September 30, 2024

STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Date: November 1-3, 2024
Location: Village Bowl, Aberdeen
Competition: Individual, Team, Doubles & Ramp
Registration Deadline: October 16, 2024

STATE UNIFIED BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Date: November 9 & 10, 2024
Location: Meadowood Lanes, Rapid City
Competition: Doubles, Team
Registration Deadline: October 23, 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND DUE DATES

January 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|-----------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Unity Conference |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| | | | | | | |

February 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|---------|-----------|----------|--|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 All Area & State B Ball Reg Due | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 NE Area Basketball Hamlin | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 BH Area Basketball Rapid City | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | | |
| | | | | | | |

March 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 SE Area Basketball Yankton |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 State Basketball Tournament Mitchell |
| 24 State Basketball Tournament Mitchell | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | | | | | | |

April 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|---------|---------------------|----------|---|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 Area Athletics and <u>Swimming Reg Due</u> State Summer Games Reg Due | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Mission Games | 25 | 26 NE Swim <u>Watertown</u> BH Athletics Rapid City | 27 BH Swim <u>Spearfish</u> SE Athletics Brandon |
| 28 | 29 State Summer Games Housing Info Due | 30 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

May 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 SE Swim Sioux Falls NE Athletics Milbank | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 State Summer Games Vermillion | 18 State Summer Games Vermillion |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Awards Nominations Due | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| | | | | | | |

June 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 State Equestrian Reg Due | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

July 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|---------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 State Equestrian Huron | 16 State Equestrian Huron | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 All Area Bocce & Softball Reg Due State Bocce & Softball Reg Due | 30 | 31 | | | |
| | | | | | | |

August 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 BH Softball Rapid City SE Softball Sioux Falls |
| 18 BH Bocce Rapid City SE Bocce <i>Tentative</i> Sioux Falls | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 NE Bocce <i>Tentative</i> Lake Norden | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| | | | | | | |

September 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---------|-----------|----------|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Fall Classic (Bocce) Rapid City | 21 Fall Classic (Softball) Rapid City |
| 22 Fall Classic (Softball) Rapid City | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 All Area Singles & Unified Reg Due | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

October 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 NE Unified Watertown | 11 NE Singles <u>Aberdeen</u> BH Singles Rapid City | 12 SE Singles <u>Sioux Falls</u> BH Unified Rapid City |
| 13 SE Unified Sioux Falls | 14 | 15 | 16 State Traditional Bowl Reg Due | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 State Unified Bowl Reg Due | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
| | | | | | | |

November 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------|-----------|----------|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 State Traditional Bowl Aberdeen | 2 State Traditional Bowl Aberdeen |
| 3 State Traditional Bowl Aberdeen | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 State Unified Bowl Rapid City |
| 10 State Unified Bowl Rapid City | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | | | | | | |

December 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

General Information

SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED SPORTS CONCEPT

A Unified Sports program provides an opportunity for people with intellectual disabilities to be included on teams with people without disabilities who are of approximately the same ability level and age. The principle of ability and age grouping is fundamental to Special Olympics. It leads to meaningful inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities on teams, a chance to be contributing teammates, and the potential to make friendships with people from whom they have traditionally been segregated.

Unified sports programs are springing up in communities worldwide through parks and recreation departments, civic organizations, private and public schools, colleges, group home agencies, state institutions, corporations, bowling proprietors, running clubs and other sports organizations.

There are a few basic principles and practices which make Unified Sports work:

Ability Grouping – The more similar the skill level of all athletes on a team, the greater the chance each athlete will play a valued and meaningful role on that team.

Age Grouping – The smaller the age range of all participants, the greater the chance that age-appropriate sport selection, friendships, and activities on and off the field or court will occur.

Training – Teammates are required to practice together on a regular basis. This results in skill development, improved teamwork, better fitness, and camaraderie created by working towards a common goal.

Competition – Teams should have many opportunities to test and display their skills in competitions. Unified Sports rules are similar, with minor modifications to the sports rules commonly used by schools and community sport programs. Participation on a Unified Sports Team facilitates transition into other community and school sports activities.

GOALS OF UNIFIED SPORTS

1. To assist agencies and school systems in offering sports programs that include athletes with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team.
2. To provide team sports opportunities to individuals with intellectual disabilities who are not presently involved in sports, especially those with intellectual disabilities who may be sensitive to participating in traditional Special Olympics sports, and those in communities where there are not enough Special Olympics athletes to conduct team sports.

TIPS FOR UNIFIED TEAMS

- Team practice is just as important, if not more important, for Unified Team Sports. Practice sessions are the ideal opportunity for team members to get to know one another and assess the relative skills of various team members. Schedule as many practices as possible, and certainly not fewer than two two-hour sessions, before starting competition.
- Remember that all Unified Team members should be closely matched in age - within three to five years for participants 18 and under and 10 years for participants 19 and over.
- Avoid letting one or more players dominate a team, thus depriving other players of the fullest chance to participate. Coaches should replace overly dominant players before team competition starts and referees should disqualify an overly dominant player in a game. It is a judgment call based on doing the most good for all participants.
- Inform athletes without intellectual disabilities that they are covered by Special Olympics International's accident insurance policy.
- Unified Partners must complete the **Unified Partner Application** (Form F) at least every three years. These applicants will be subjected to a criminal records check, and where applicable, a motor vehicle records check.

UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS

Unified Champion Schools bring youth with and without intellectual disabilities together through education and sports and related initiatives that provide them with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to create and sustain school communities that promote acceptance, respect, and human dignity for all students.

The 3 Components of UCS:

- 1. Inclusive Sports & Fitness** - Provides students opportunities to participate in sports activities alongside one another, which is the most conducive way for breaking down stereotypes—Unified Sports, unified physical education and intramurals, inclusive Young Athletes
- 2. Leadership & Advocacy** - Provides students opportunities to take on leadership roles in promoting UCS activities in the school and in the community—Partners Club, Youth Activation Committees, Youth Summits
- 3. Whole School Engagement** - Provides opportunities for all students in the school to participate in UCS through school-wide activities—Spread the Word >> Inclusion, Fans in the Stands, Pep Rallies, Polar Plunges

We want YOUR school to become a Unified Champion School!

Special Olympics Family Member 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 local programs, state programs, 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
- 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 competitions, 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 Accredited Program 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 Accredited Program personnel
- Game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file in the Accredited Program 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)

Local Program/sub-Program

Athlete's Name