



**Special Olympics**  
South Dakota

# 2025 COMPETITION GUIDE



**Special  
Olympics**  
South Dakota

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# Important Changes / Reminders

## NEW THIS YEAR:

- A physical examination is no longer required for participation. In its place, ALL athletes must complete the Athlete Registration Form (this is a one-time form). Thereafter, the Athlete Registration Renewal Form must be completed annually.
- Class A Volunteer & Unified Parter Registration will be completed electronically only. For those 18 years and older, the information submitted will be used to complete a criminal records check, and where applicable, a motor vehicle records check. Criminal records checks will be completed at no cost to our volunteers and will help ensure the safety of our athletes. As a part of this registration process, Volunteers will also complete Protective Behaviors Training.
- 3x3 Basketball to be contested in 2025.
- If planning to use a credit card for hotels, you must obtain prior approval with our state office account manager so your card limit can be increased. Each delegation is responsible for securing your room block. SOSD might negotiate room prices on your behalf. If this happens, we will pass this information on to you. However, we will NOT make reservations on your behalf.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- **When completing registration forms, it is *imperative* you spell names correctly and include both first and last names.**
- **When registering for events, we need forms either returned electronically or through the mail. In other words, we cannot accept photos or screenshots of forms.**
- Class A volunteers should have an approved background check on file BEFORE any contact with athletes, i.e. attending practices.
- 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.
- 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 athlete registration dates list, contact your Area Director.
- For ramp bowling divisions, there will be one ramp used per lane. If participants cannot agree on the ramp to use, facility staff and/or state staff will make the selection.
- Area participation is required to be eligible for state.
- There will be NO registration fees for most SOSD events. All exceptions will be clearly outlined in the sports sections.

# 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.

# 2025 Competition Schedule

## AREA/STATE WINTER GAMES

For Details call Special Olympics Wyoming:  
1.307.235.3062

## AREA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS

### NE Area Tournament

Date: February 14, 2025  
Location: Hamlin High School, Hayti  
Time: 8:30am  
Registration Deadline: January 29, 2025

### BH Area Tournament

Date: February 22, 2025  
Location: Central High School, Rapid City  
Time: 9:00am  
Registration Deadline: January 29, 2025

### SE Area Tournament

Date: March 1, 2025  
Location: Harrisburg High School, Harrisburg  
Time: 9:00am  
Registration Deadline: January 29, 2025

## STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Date: March 29 & 30, 2025  
Location: Mitchell  
Competition: Team, Unified Team, Individual Skills,  
Cheerleading Competition, & 3x3 Basketball  
Registration Deadline: January 29, 2025

## AREA SPRING GAMES

### Mission Games

Date: April 23, 2025  
Location: High School Track, Mission  
Time: 1:00pm-3:30pm  
Registration Deadline: April 9, 2025

### NE Area Swimming

Date: April 25, 2025  
Location: Prairie Lakes Wellness Center, Watertown  
Time: 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Registration Deadline: April 9, 2025

### BH Area Athletics

Date: April 25, 2025  
Location: Sioux Park, Rapid City  
Time: 9:00am-4:00pm  
Registration Deadline: April 9, 2025

### SE Area Athletics

Date: April 26, 2025  
Location: Brandon High School, Brandon  
Time: 8:00am-3:30pm  
Registration Deadline: April 9, 2025

### SE Area Swimming

Date: May 2, 2025  
Location: Midco Aquatics Center, Sioux Falls  
Time: 1:00pm-5:00pm  
Registration Deadline: April 9, 2025

### NE Area Athletics

Date: May 2, 2025  
Location: High School Track, Milbank  
Time: 8:00am-3:30pm  
Registration Deadline: April 9, 2025

### BH Area Swimming

Date: May 3, 2025  
Location: Young Center, Spearfish  
Time: 9:00am-12:00pm  
Registration Deadline: April 9, 2025

## STATE SUMMER GAMES

Date: May 29-31, 2025  
Location: University of South Dakota, Vermillion  
Competition: Volleyball, Volleyball Skill, Team Soccer,  
Swimming, Powerlifting, Individual Soccer Skills, Athletics  
Registration Deadline: April 9, 2025

## EQUESTRIAN COMPETITION

### West River

Date: July 12, 2025  
Location: James Kjerstead Event Center, Rapid City  
Competition: TBD  
Registration Deadline: June 24, 2025

### East River

Date: July 14, 2025  
Location: K & H Rodeo Grounds, Watertown  
Competition: TBD  
Registration Deadline: June 24, 2025

## AREA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS

### SE Area Tournament

Date: August 16, 2025  
Location: Sherman Park Softball Complex, Sioux Falls  
Time: 9:30am  
Registration Deadline: July 28, 2025

### BH Area Tournament

Date: August 30, 2025  
Location: Star of the West, Rapid City  
Time: 9:30am  
Registration Deadline: July 28, 2025

## **AREA BOCCE TOURNAMENTS**

### SE Area Tournament

Date: August 17, 2025

Location: McCart Fields, Sioux Falls

Time: 9:30am

Registration Deadline: July 28, 2025

### BH Area Tournament

Date: August 23, 2025

Location: Rapid City Bocce Courts, Rapid City

Time: 9:00am-12:00/ 12:30-3:30

Registration Deadline: July 28, 2025

### NE Area Tournament

Date: August 24, 2025

Location: Memorial Park, Lake Norden

Time: 9:00am

Registration Deadline: July 28, 2025

## **FALL CLASSIC**

### **BOCCE**

Date: September 19, 2025

Location: Rapid City Bocce Courts, Rapid City

Competition: Traditional Doubles, Unified Doubles

Registration Deadline: July 28, 2025

### **SOFTBALL**

Date: September 20 & 21, 2025

Location: Star of the West, Rapid City

Competition: Slow-Pitch, Unified Slow-Pitch, Tee Ball, Coach Pitch

Registration Deadline: July 28, 2025

## **AREA BOWLING TOURNAMENTS**

### NE Area Unified Doubles Bowling

Date: October 9, 2025

Location: Tommy Lanes, Watertown

Time: 9:00am-11:30am / 11:30am-2:00pm

Registration Deadline: September 29, 2025

### NE Area Singles Bowling

Date: October 10, 2025

Location: Village Bowl, Aberdeen

Time: 9:00am-11:30am / 11:30am-2:00pm / 2:00pm-4:30pm

Registration Deadline: September 29, 2025

### BH Area Singles Bowling

Date: October 10, 2025

Location: Meadowood Lanes, Rapid City

Time: 9:00am-11:30am / 11:30am-2:00pm / 2:00pm-4:30pm

Registration Deadline: September 29, 2025

### BH Area Unified Doubles Bowling

Date: October 11, 2025

Location: Meadowood Lanes, Rapid City

Time: 12:30pm-3:00pm / 3:00pm-5:30pm

Registration Deadline: September 29, 2025

### SE Area Singles Bowling

Date: October 11, 2025

Location: Eastway Bowl, Sioux Falls

Time: 9:00am-11:30am / 11:30am-2:00pm / 2:00pm-4:30pm

Registration Deadline: September 29, 2025

### SE Area Unified Doubles Bowling

Date: October 12, 2025

Location: Eastway Bowl, Sioux Falls

Time: 9:00am-11:30am / 11:30am-2:00pm / 2:00pm-4:30pm

Registration Deadline: September 29, 2025

## **STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT**

Date: October 31-November 2, 2025

Location: Village Bowl, Aberdeen

Competition: Individual, Team, Doubles & Ramp

Registration Deadline: October 15, 2025

## **STATE UNIFIED BOWLING TOURNAMENT**

Date: November 8 & 9, 2025

Location: Eastway Bowl, Sioux Falls

Competition: Doubles, Team

Registration Deadline: October 22, 2025

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND DUE DATES

## January 2025

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

## February 2025

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

# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					28	1 SE Area Basketball Harrisburg
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 State Basketball Tournament Mitchell
30 State Basketball Tournament Mitchell	31					

# April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Area Athletics and <u>Swimming Reg Due</u> State Summer Games Reg Due	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Mission Games	24	25 NE Swim <u>Watertown</u> BH Athletics Rapid City	26 SE Athletics Brandon
27	28	29	30			



# May 2025

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

# June 2025

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 Equestrian Reg Due	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

# July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 <u>Equestrian</u> West River Rapid City
13	14 <u>Equestrian</u> East River Watertown	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 All Area Bocce & Softball Reg Due State Bocce & Softball Reg Due	29	30	31		

# August 2025

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

# September 2025

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 Fall Classic (Bocce) Rapid City	20 Fall Classic (Softball) Rapid City
21 Fall Classic (Softball) Rapid City	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 All Area and State Singles & Unified Reg Due	30	31			

# October 2025

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

# November 2025

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

# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	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.

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Signature of Family Member

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Date

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Delegation

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Athlete's Name