



# SEASON INFORMATION & COACH PACKET

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## **Training Season**

Sports offered for the Fall Tournament season include bocce, bowling, cycling, and soccer. Athletes must attain **8 weeks or 12 hours** of training in their sport in order to compete at State Fall Tournament.

We recommend beginning training by mid-August, or early September if you are a school-based team. If you begin training close to area games, 2 trainings a week or longer trainings will be required in order to fit the minimum amount of training in. Area games does count towards training requirements for state games.

Please ensure that all members of your team are up-to-date on paperwork for their training and competition season. Reach out to your area director for an updated report of paperwork expirations.

Paperwork Requirements:

- Athletes require: Athlete Registration (consent), Athlete Medical, and Communicable Disease Waiver
- Unified Partners require: Class A Volunteer Form, Communicable Disease Waiver
- Coaches require: Class A Volunteer Form, Protective Behaviors Training, Concussion Training, Communicable Disease Waiver

All athletes are expected to adhere to the [Athlete Code of Conduct](#).

All coaches are expected to adhere to the [Coaches Code of Conduct](#).

## **Sport-Specific Information**

### **All Sports:**

Maximum effort/honest effort rule: Athletes are expected to give maximum effort when competing. This is the only way the divisioning process can work as it was intended. Athletes who do not participate honestly and with maximum effort in all preliminary trials and/or finals violate the true spirit of competition. Anyone who increases their final score by 15% or more from their qualifying score may be disqualified.

Rules: each sport for our fall season will follow the most updated Special Olympics rulebook for each sport (2022). Please make sure your program/team is using these updated rules. Rules can be found on our website here: <https://sowvy.org/sports/sports-offered>.

Protest form: If a coach has a dispute against a violation of rules at any competition, they must fill out a protest form immediately following the event in which they want to protest. Protest forms are located with the venue director or at the main check-in/awards table. They must be turned into the venue director before awards happen for that event. Protest forms must relate to a violation of rules, and the coach must be able to prove which rule the infraction violated in the most updated sport rulebook.

## **Bocce:**

- Athletes may compete in one event: either Singles, Traditional Doubles, or Unified Doubles.
- Bocce games will end when one player/team gets to 12 points, OR 10 frames have been completed, OR 30 minutes pass. The player/team with the most points wins that game.
- Athletes will play divisioning rounds on-site at competition.
  - No qualifying scores are needed for area or state games.

## **Bowling:**

- Athletes may compete in one event: either Singles, Traditional Doubles, or Unified Doubles.
- Fall Tournament will be a scratch bowling tournament with three games. In a scratch tournament athletes are assigned divisions based on their entered average.
- Members of competing teams, doubles and single entrants shall bowl one frame on one lane, and for the next frame alternate and use the other lane until five frames are bowled on each lane of the pair.
- Attire for bowlers should be neat and professional. The ideal uniform is a collared shirt with khakis, dress pants, or Bermuda shorts. Not appropriate: jeans, tank tops, sweatpants, etc.
- Assisted bowlers must provide their own equipment (ramp and/or handle balls). Please enter assisted bowlers into assisted events on registration and indicate whether the bowler self-aims or if their coach aims for them.
  - Assisted bowlers can be on a doubles team. Please make a note on registration if one or both athletes on the team use a ramp.
- Bowling event quotas: for programs with more than 10 athletes bowling, allocate about half of your team to bowl singles, and about half to bowl doubles. This is so that each team has the best chance of not competing against themselves.
- Please secure qualifying scores for each athlete and include these on area games registration forms. The qualifying score is the athlete's average score from practice (preferably 15 games minimum).
  - $\text{Qualifying score} = \text{Total Game Points} \div \text{number of games bowled}$   
*Example: Total pins knock down 1264 divided by 21 games bowled = 60*  
*(drop all fractions) average/entry score.*

## **Cycling:**

- Cycling athletes may compete in a maximum of three events.
- Cyclists are expected to provide their own equipment.
- Helmets that meet the safety standards of the National Governing Body are required for practice and competition for athletes and coaches on the course.
- Please secure training times (qualifying scores) for each athlete for each registered cycling event during training sessions and include these times on the area games registration forms.

## Soccer:

- Athletes may compete in one event: either Soccer Skills or Traditional or Unified Sports Team Soccer.
  - Teams will play the 5-a-Side team format.
- Unified Sports and Traditional Team Soccer will be played according to Special Olympics Soccer rules.
  - Unified: Each team must have three athletes and two Unified Sports partners on the field at all times. If a player has been expelled, the team will play with less than 5 players on the field until substitution is allowed. Rosters should contain a proportionate number of Unified Sports Partners and Athletes.
- Team Soccer uniforms must have a number on the back a minimum of 6” tall.
- A team roster may not consist of more than 10 players.
- Please secure qualifying scores for soccer skills and include these scores on the area games registration forms.
  - The qualifying score for Soccer Skills= total of a complete Skills competition held during a practice session.
  - No qualifying scores are needed for soccer teams.

## Area Games

Competition at area games is required in order to compete at State Fall Tournament.

The events that athletes compete in at area games will be the same events they compete in at state games. No changes will be allowed.

List of area games and Area Directors:

Area	Location	Date	Area Director	Contact Information
Area 1	Worland	9/13	Katy Brittain	(307) 899-2638 <a href="mailto:area1@specialolympicswy.org">area1@specialolympicswy.org</a>
Area 2	Green River	9/20	Kirklin Carroll-Vincent	(307) 871-1525 <a href="mailto:area2@specialolympicswy.org">area2@specialolympicswy.org</a>
Area 3	Cheyenne	9/19	Marsha Dial	(307) 220-0253 <a href="mailto:area3@specialolympicswy.org">area3@specialolympicswy.org</a>
Area 4	Gillette	9/20	Carrie Pilcher	(307) 751-0539 <a href="mailto:areaiv@specialolympicswy.org">areaiv@specialolympicswy.org</a>
Area 5	Casper	9/21	Barb Flinn	(435) 640-0072 <a href="mailto:area5@specialolympicswy.org">area5@specialolympicswy.org</a>

*\*Dates and locations subject to change by area director pending availability and weather*

Registration will be sent out by your Area Director. It is imperative that you turn in registration to your Area Director by their deadline so that they have the proper time to enter all participants, division, and send you delegation reports to check that everything is accurate. Area Directors reserve the right to not accept late registrations.

Qualifying scores must be included on registration forms for all area games.

## **State Games**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Casper	October 9-11, 2024	Laura Kelly	(307) 235-3062 <a href="mailto:sports@specialolympicswy.org">sports@specialolympicswy.org</a>

*Special Olympics Wyoming anticipates over 700 athletes, Unified Partners, coaches, and volunteers to come together for the 2024 State Fall Tournament!*

Athletes and Unified Partners must compete at their area games in order to compete at state games! Athletes may compete in one sport only.

### **Registration:**

Registration has been sent out by the state office and will be due **Monday, September 23**. It is imperative that you turn in registration by the deadline so that we have the proper time to enter all participants, division, and send you delegation reports to check. We reserve the right to not accept late registrations. Registration is also available [on the website](#).

Qualifying scores for state games will be taken from area games scores, so there is no need to enter qualifying scores on state registration.

### **Special Events:**

- Leadership Conference: SOWY is hosting a Leadership Conference on the first day of State Fall Tournament. Join us on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am – 4:00pm for various sessions. [Register here!](#)
- LETR: the Law Enforcement Torch Run is planning a Torch Run on Wednesday, October 9. More information coming soon!
- Opening Ceremony: join us on Wednesday 10/9 at 6:30pm.
- Healthy Athletes: more information on Healthy Athlete opportunities coming soon!
- Victory Banquet and Dance: join on Thursday 10/10 at 6:00pm. Theme: *Hollywood Gala*.

### **Meals:**

State Fall Tournament will provide dinner on Wednesday 10/9, lunch and dinner on Thursday 10/10, and lunch on Friday 10/11.

- If you or your athletes have specific dietary needs or do not like meals choices, please make arrangements to bring your own lunch or dinner.
- SOWY will not reimburse you if you choose not to eat one of our prearranged meals and go off site for food.
- It is important that local/team coordinators provide an accurate number of meals on their registration form.

## **Lodging:**

We are proud to partner with two host hotels for the 2024 State Fall Tournament: Ramkota Hotel and Best Western Downtown. Both hotels have an \$85/night rate and will direct bill the office. Coaches/volunteers will still need to put down a credit card for incidentals at the time of check-in, typically it is a \$100 hold. Teams should send their rooming lists to either Christine at [office@specialolympicswy.org](mailto:office@specialolympicswy.org) or the hotels directly no later than one week before check-in to make for a smooth check in process. Book before September 25<sup>th</sup> to receive the rate. See below for how to book:

Ramkota: Call 307-266-6000

Best Western Downtown: Call 307-439-2074 or use [this link](#) to book.



## **Recreational Swimming Guidelines:**

Special Olympics Wyoming prohibits recreational swimming at any time while under the auspices of Special Olympics. All members of Special Olympics Wyoming teams are not allowed to swim at hotels while attending Special Olympics Wyoming events. [Full policy here.](#)

## **Housing Arrangements:**

Athletes, Unified Partners, coaches, and chaperones (participants) are on a one person per bed basis. Arrangements cannot be made that will ask two people to share a bed. Housing male and female participants together is not permitted. The exception to this rule is a married couple.