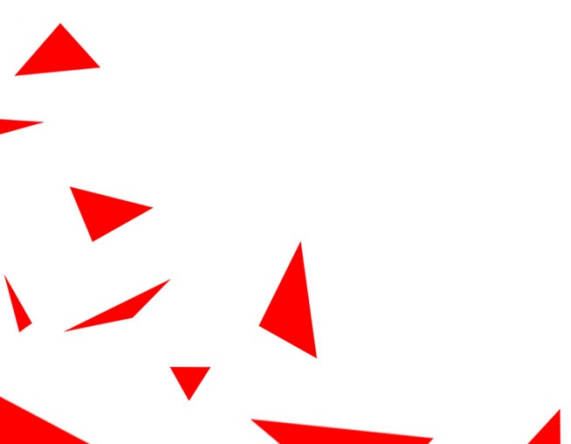




Special
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ATHLETICS

2019-2020 Qualifiers Information Package



Thank you for showing interest in Special Olympics Ontario's School Championships Qualifiers.

We offer five different sports (athletics, basketball, bocce, floor hockey, and soccer) in various locations around the Province, at which local Secondary Schools enter teams and compete against their peers in proper, structured competition. Our 2019-2020 School Programs booklet can be found [here](#).

Secondary School Qualifiers

Special Olympics Ontario's School Championships and Qualifiers Program (previously known as Four Corners) uniquely provides sport training and competition opportunities to high school student-athletes with intellectual disabilities. This groundbreaking program gives athletes the opportunity to compete and advance to the Special Olympics School Championships.

The School Championships and Qualifiers program provides quality competition experience for students with an intellectual disability aged 13-21 in the sports of athletics, basketball, bocce, floor hockey, and soccer. We ensure every athlete has a meaningful experience by divisioning our athletes by ability level. What this means is that coaches will rank their athletes prior to each Qualifier and then their team will only compete against other teams of a similar ranking. Our advancement opportunities are equitable and thus EVERY athlete and team has the same opportunity to advance through a Qualifier to our Provincial Games!

Schools can enter up to three teams for a qualifier in each of the Traditional and Unified divisions. Schools are restricted to participating in only one qualifier per sport. Schools are encouraged to participate in qualifiers in as many sports as are available to them! Teams and athletes of all ability levels are encouraged to participate, and all sports are co-ed. Registration for regional qualifying events is \$5 per student.

Unified Sports:

Unified Sport places athletes with and without intellectual disabilities on a sports field together to compete as teammates. Teams are made up of athletes of similar age and ability level. All teams must subscribe to the principle of meaningful involvement, where all individuals participate in a role that is meaningful. Whether it be in an offensive or defensive capacity, each athlete should feel as though they are participating in a way that is significant.

At its core, Unified Sports are about unifying all people, with and without intellectual disabilities, using sport as a catalyst for social inclusion, attitude, culture, and behaviour change.

How to Participate:

- 1** Check our list of existing qualifiers and register your school in the event that you would like to attend. This list of qualifiers and their registration pages can be found [here](#).

If there is not a qualifier in the sport you would like in a location that is convenient:

- 2** You could offer to host your own SO qualifier. To be considered a recognized Qualifier, the event must meet [the following criteria](#).
- 3** You could host a fun day of sport and socializing for local students; however, will not be recognized by SOO as an official Qualifier.

OPTION 1: Go to an Existing Qualifier

Our list of qualifiers can be found [here](#).

Registration costs \$5 per student.

All in attendance are responsible for their own transportation and their own lunches.

OPTION 2: Host Your Own SOO Qualifier

Special Olympics Ontario is recruiting Local Champions to help us run events in their community. Finding someone to take the lead hosting their local events, allows the SOO School and Youth team to run more events in other areas and create more opportunities for athletes across the province.

If there is interest and demand for qualifiers in locations we have not scheduled, we are happy to work with local educators to add an event at their school.

If a Qualifier is recognized by SOO, all participating teams are eligible to advance to the annual Provincial School Championships.

In order to be a recognized qualifier, an event must meet the following criteria:

- 1** You must register the event with Special Olympics Ontario.
- 2** The event's date and location must be approved by SOO's School and Youth team prior to the event. Each specific sport has its own timeframe during the school year, after which all qualifying decisions are made. All qualifiers of a sport must be completed before the qualifying date.
- 3** The event must be open to all schools, both Catholic and Public boards.
- 4** There must be at least two schools present at the event, with a minimum of three teams between them.
- 5** You must update us on all teams' roster changes, and submit accurate game scores using the template we will provide you with in a Final Report package.

SOO's School and Youth team will help you reach out to local schools, collect registrations, and create the schedule for the day's events. We will be "on call" at the Toronto office, to provide support via phone or email on the day of the event.

OPTION 3: Non-Competitive

We can help you organize a fun day of sports for your students and/or other local schools. We can provide you with scheduling templates, sport resources and marketing ideas.

If you feel your area is underserved and want to enquire about an addition of an official qualifier, please contact schools@specialolympicsontario.com.

An itinerary for the day would look something like this:

8:00am	SOO Staff member arrives
9:00am	Volunteers arrive to help set up and assign roles
9:30am-10:00am-	Athletes arrive/Welcome Line
10:00am	Coaches meeting
10:15am	Opening ceremonies
10:30am	Competition begins
11:45am-12:15pm	Lunch break
12:15pm	Competition resumes
1:30pm	Competition ends and athletes depart
1:30pm-2:00pm	Clean-up of facility

The competition schedule would be as follows:

Six games of 25 minutes each.

Timeslot 1	10:30am to 10:55pm
Timeslot 2	10:55am to 11:20am
Timeslot 3	11:20am to 11:45am
Timeslot 4	11:45am to 12:15pm (Lunch break)
Timeslot 5	12:15pm to 12:40pm
Timeslot 6	12:40pm to 1:05pm
Timeslot 7	1:05pm to 1:30pm