



SOO Schools Participating Practices

Being a member of Special Olympics movement and school community is a privilege. Here at SOO, we strive to enrich the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities and have worked in partnership with schools for well over a decade to do this.

To participate in Special Olympics, we require our schools and educators to uphold the following standards to ensure a quality experiences for all Special Olympians:

Core Principles:

- a) Becoming a Champion School
 - a. **New Schools:** Complete the short onboarding/orientation process
 - b. **Communications:** stay up to date, read & review important communications for Special Olympics throughout the school year (Emails, WhatsApp, Schools Hub, Newsletters)
 - c. **Sustainability:** As you join our movement, we ask that you set a foundation for the continued involvement in Special Olympics by involving, mentoring and advocating for the program with other educators and school admin.

- b) Participating in an event
 - a. **Registration:** Teams are required to register a week prior to all Special Olympics events – no extensions will be given
 - i. All schools must complete the school year intake form in its entirety along with any subsequent event forms to be allowed to participate.
 - ii. All schools must abide by the roster requirements for each sport
 - b. **Withdrawing:** Teams who register for an event and need to withdraw must do so 7 days prior. If this is done later schools will be charged a withdrawal fee of \$100.
 - i. Schools who register multiple teams also have until 7 days to drop a team
 - ii. Teams are required to make any roster changes on the registration form
 - c. **Game Times:** If you have a game time request this must be done 7 days prior to the event on the registration form

Special Olympics Ontario

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- d. **Requirements:** Teams are expected to provide their own uniforms, personal equipment (shin pads, running shoes etc.), transportation and lunch to events
 - e. **Rankings:** Teams are asked to be as accurate & honest as they can be when ranking their teams and athletes
 - f. **Conduct:** Coaches are required to have read, reviewed and acknowledged the codes of conduct (athletes, coaches, spectators)
 - g. **Rules:** Coaches are required to review special Olympics sport rules before participating in each sport
 - h. **Unified:** Uphold the core principles of meaningful involvement and follow special Olympics guiding principles
 - i. **Fostering an Inclusive Environment:** Special Olympics fosters an inclusive, fun, supportive environment where everyone regardless of ability can flourish – we ask our coaches to promote this in their coaching practices.
- c) Provincial School Championships (*Only Applicable to Qualified Secondary*)
1. **Divisions:** Only competitive traditional teams and unified champion teams are eligible to compete
 2. **Acceptance:** teams will be given a 1-2-week deadline to accept their qualification, if it is not accepted within the designated period the qualification invitation is withdrawn
 3. **Withdrawal:** Any team that withdraws from acceptance 60 days prior to the event will be charged a \$350 fee.
 4. Registration:
 - a. Roster changes: When accepting the invitation teams are allowed a maximum of two substitutes of who was on the original qualifying team
 - b. Once registered teams have until April 1st to make any roster adjustments, however any substitutions need to be the same gender, and extra players cannot be added at that time.
 5. **Town Hall/Sport Calls:** A representative is required to attend their respective calls otherwise they will not be allowed to participate.
 6. **Transportation:** Teams are required to review & stay up to date on their teams travel information and inform SOO immediately of any issues. Upon registration SOO needs to be made aware of any assistive requirements otherwise we will be unable to accommodate.



7. **Accommodations:** Provide accurate rooming list information, review accommodation information within the given time period.
 - a. Any accommodation requests need to be provided within the given time-period provided by SOO
 - b. **Additional Educators:** Will not be granted unless there is a supported and documented rational.
8. **Dietary:** Accurate information needs to be provided on-time and only restrictions not preferences will be accommodated.

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