

SOO Elementary Schools Participating Practices

Being a member of the Special Olympics movement and the 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 experience 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
 - b. **Withdrawing:** Teams who register for an event and need to cancel must do so 7 days prior. If this is done later, schools will be charged a withdrawal fee of \$100.
 - i. Schools 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
 - d. **Requirements:** Teams are expected to provide their own attire or uniforms, personal equipment (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

Special Olympics Ontario

65 Overlea Boulevard, Suite 200, Toronto, ON, M4H 1P1

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Web www1.specialolympicsontario.com/schools

Facebook/Instagram/X @SOOSchoolChamps

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- 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 and event information before participating.
- h. **Unified:** Uphold the core principles of meaningful involvement and follow the Special Olympics guiding principles
 - i. All schools must abide by the Unified ratio requirements for each sport/event
- 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.

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