

Section P: **Summer Games**

What began in 1969 as a track and field event for 350 people with intellectual disabilities continues for the 48th consecutive year as Special Olympics Texas presents its annual Summer Games, May 24-27. The 2018 Summer Games will be hosted by the University of Texas at Arlington.

During this season, athletes around the state will be training and competing in seven different sports: Athletics, Basketball, Cycling, Equestrian, Gymnastics, Soccer and Tennis. Check with your area office for entries deadlines and competition dates.

Resource Information

To request specific information on individual sports and competitions, consult the sport's National Governing Body Rules and the Official Special Olympics Summer Sports Rules, which may be obtained through the area office or at www.specialolympics.org. Below are SOTX Sport Directors and their contact information. Please use these contacts for rule-specific questions and information.

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Chapter Summer Games

This year's Summer Games features six sports (athletics, basketball, cycling, gymnastics, soccer and tennis). Additionally, events including Opening Ceremonies, Victory Dance, Closing Ceremonies, Athlete Village, Healthy Athletes, various sports clinics and demonstrations offer unparalleled variety for all Games attendees. **Entry fees will be \$30 for each competing athlete and Unified Sports® partner.** Scratches made at games registration and during the weekend of games will result in a \$15.00 administration fee per athlete and Unified Partner. Registration will be held on Thursday, May 24.

Equestrian is considered a stand-alone competition. Athletes do have the option to participate in Equestrian and one Summer Games sport at the Chapter competition. The Chapter Equestrian competition will be held in Bryan at the Brazos County Expo Complex, May 18-20. **Entry fees will be \$30 for each competing athlete and Unified Sports® partner.** Registration will be held on Friday, May 18. Scratches made at games registration and during the weekend of games will result in a \$15.00 administration fee per athlete and Unified Partner.

Check your area office for entry deadline. No late entries will be accepted. Coaches must submit their entries to their area office.

To qualify for participation at the 2018 Summer Games in athletics, basketball, cycling, equestrian, gymnastics, soccer or tennis, all athletes must have competed in their sport of choice in the sanctioned area competition. In addition, they must have a current Athlete Enrollment/Medical Release Form on file, and correct and complete athlete entry forms. All forms must be submitted by the established deadlines for entries for Summer Games. Athletes in the above sports are not required to place third or better at area competitions in order to qualify for participation in Summer Games. Basketball is the only sport with a quota. The quota is distributed to areas based on area participation.

It is recommended, however, that placing third or better at local or area competition be considered strongly when selecting Summer Games participants. A maximum number of entries for these sports will be established, if necessary, to preserve the safety and integrity of the event.

In athletics and basketball, an allocation system exists. Due to safety, scheduling and logistical considerations, each region receives an allotment for athletics (track and field) events. Time constraints and facility availability determine the number of basketball teams that are able to compete at Summer Games.

Coaches are encouraged to enter their athletes in sports other than athletics (track and field) at Summer Games. There are many advantages to entering other sports, including additional competition time, no allocation quotas, easier supervision of athletes, scheduling that permits a team to know more precisely when and where it will compete, and increased opportunity for scholarships.

For all team competitions in which there are individual skills, SOTX will require a minimum of 8 participants to offer the skills event at Chapter Games. This will be determined at the time entries are due to the Chapter office.

2017 Chapter Games Sport Maximums

Basketball – 125 teams (*traditional and Unified*)

Athletics – 2,600 athletes participants

2017 Chapter Games Sport Minimums

In order to host these events at Chapter Games, the following minimum entries numbers must be met. If not met at the time of entries, these events will **not** be held at Chapter Summer Games. If minimums are not met, delegations will be notified and athletes scratched.

- Individual Basketball Skills - must have a minimum of 8 athletes entered to host event.
- Individual Soccer Skills - must have a minimum of 8 athletes entered to host event.
- Traditional 3-on-3 Half Court Team - must have a minimum of 9 teams in each hoop height to host event.

Athletics

Advancement in Athletics is Based on:

- Allocations applied to specific events within a sport.
- Preliminary and final competitions are held in designated events during Summer Games. Events and divisions selected for preliminaries include the 50 meter dash (male and female), 100 meter dash (male and female), 200 meter dash (male), 4x100 meter relays (male and female) as well as all field events (male and female).

Certain events within athletics have a quota (50 meter dash, 100 meter dash, softball throw, shot put and standing long jump). The number per event is the maximum number an area may enter in those events – an area is not required to enter anyone in the quota

events.

For example, if an area has trained all its athletes to compete in the running long jump, they are not required to enter anyone in the standing long jump.

The quota system for specific events is determined on a percentage basis of the total athletic allocation. The percentages are as follows:

Track Events

50m – 43 percent
100m – 33 percent
All other track events – open

Field Events

High Jump – open
Softball Throw – 48 percent
Running Long Jump – open
Standing Long Jump – 26 percent
Shot Put – 20 percent

For example, Area 29 has a total athletics allocation of 230. Of those 230, no more than 43 percent (99) may be entered in the 50 meter dash and 33 percent (76) in the 100 meter dash. The other 55 must enter other running events – the 200 meter dash, 400 meter run, 800 meter run, etc. $99 + 76 + 55 = 230$. If, however, only 60 enter in the 50 meter dash and 25 enter the 100 meter dash, then 145 may enter in other running events, $60 + 25 + 145 = 230$.

The same method applies in field events. The same 230 people may also enter one field event each, and one relay each. In this example, Area 29 can bring no more than 26 percent (60) of its total track and field athletes to compete in the standing long jump or 48 percent (110) athletes in the softball throw. If Area 29 maxes out on its shot put entries (20 percent = 46 athletes), standing long jump entries and softball throw entries, then that leaves 14 athletes to compete in the high jump and running long jump. It is best to allow athletes to compete in their best event as the numbers allow.

Athletics Events Offered

The following events are sanctioned by Special Olympics Texas and are to be offered at all local, area and chapter competitions. The actual events scheduled and conducted at local, area and chapter competitions will be determined by a minimum number of entries in each event.

The Chapter Sports Management Team has determined that to increase quality of competition that Chapter will make the determination if the 1500M walk has enough participation to make this event competitive. The decision will be made after Chapter receives entries for Summer Games.

10m Assisted Walk
25m Assisted Race
50m Assisted Race
25m Walk
50m Walk

1500m Walk

100m Race Walk
400m Race Walk
50m Dash
100m Dash
200m Dash
400m Dash
800m Run

1500m Run
3000m Run
25m Wheelchair Race
100m Wheelchair Race
30m Wheelchair Slalom
50m Motorized Wheelchair Slalom
10m Wheelchair Race
4x25m Wheelchair Shuttle Relay
4x100m Relay - Unified
4x400m Relay - Unified
25m Motorized Wheelchair Obstacle Race
4x100m Relay

4x200m Relay

4x200m Unified Relay

4x400m Relay

Pentathlon and Unified Sports® Events

Includes the 100m, 400m, Shot Put, High Jump and Running Long Jump. Unified Pentathlon will be offered in a coed format. This will be structured with a pair made up of one athlete and one Unified Partner, each competing in all 5 events. Scoring will result by combining both the athlete and Unified Partner's scores for a total.

Field Events

Standing Long Jump
Running Long Jump
High Jump
Tennis Ball Throw

Softball Throw
Mini-Javelin 300g and 400g
Shot Put
Wheelchair Shot Put

Track Events Information

- An athlete may enter one track event, one field event and one relay event, or the athlete may enter the pentathlon and one relay event.
- An athlete competing with a wheelchair or assisted device may enter into two track events and one field event. For track - either two wheelchair events, or one wheelchair event and one assisted event, or two assisted events. For field - one field event.
- Unified Partners will allowed to participate in up to two Unified Sports relays in Athletics.
- The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall govern all Special Olympics athletics competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon United States Track & Field Association rules for athletics. United States Track & Field Association rules shall be implemented except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall apply.
- Long distance runners may enter two distance races (800m and longer), plus one relay race. Athletes who choose this option will not have the option to participate in a field event.
- An athlete who uses a wheelchair may enter two track events and one field event.
- Assisted walks are for those athletes who need a mechanical or adaptive device (crutches, cane, walker, pushing a wheelchair) to maintain an upright position. (Shoe inserts are not considered a mechanical or adaptive device.) Another person may not physically assist athletes. A guide rope for visually-impaired athletes is not considered a mechanical device and thus these athletes will be heated with sighted runners of equal ability.
- Please obtain a copy of the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for detailed information regarding wheelchair events, motorized wheelchair events, assisted walks, other modified events and pentathlon scoring tables.
- In wheelchair races, competition management has the option to space athletes out, using more than one lane.

Qualifying Times

Qualifying times are required for entries at the area and chapter games in the following events

100m Wheelchair Dash	2 minutes
200m Dash	50 seconds
400m Run	2 minutes

800m Run	5 minutes
<i>1500m Walk</i>	<i>20 minutes</i>
1500m Run	10 minutes, 30 seconds
3000m Run	23 minutes
400m Relay	2 minutes
400m Race Walk	5 minutes
25m Wheelchair Race	3 minutes

Qualifying times do not apply for local competition.

Athletes whose entry scores exceed qualifying times will be deleted from that event.

Spiked Track Shoes

- Spiked track and field shoes are allowed in Special Olympics Texas athletics competition.
- Guidelines are established in the USA Track & Field Association rules, but the exact maximum length of spikes allowed varies from meet to meet since it is determined by the specifications of the venue where the meet is being held (different track surfaces allow for different sized spikes).
- Organizers should share information about spike specifications with coaches well in advance of competition. If uncertain, coaches should always contact SOTX staff or competition organizers for clarification.

Pentathlon

- The SOI Sports Rules state that the events must be conducted in the following order 100 meter run, long jump, shot put, high jump, 400 meter run.
Modification: competition directors have the option to alter the order of the events (with proper justification such as weather, schedule conflicts within the meet and equipment challenges/availability).
- Pentathlon high jumpers are allowed to jump at every centimeter increment and are allowed to jump at a minimum starting height that is below that of the standard high jump minimum.
- Modifications: All high jumpers (pentathlon athletes included) must start at the minimum high jump height listed in the SOI Sports Rules (which will be 1 meter). Each increment will be raised 3 centimeters after that. Each competitor will be allowed two minutes between consecutive jumps. So, pentathlon scoring in the high jump will begin at 1.
- Any jump below 1 meter is not permitted and will not be used in scoring. This same criteria applies to athletes who are entered in the high jump, but not the pentathlon.

- SOTX recommends but does not require that competition directors post the schedule for each of the five pentathlon events before the meet so that participants can plan accordingly. There must be a minimum of 30 minutes between the time one event ends and the next event begins for any athlete.
- All pentathlon athletes will be allowed to also compete in one relay event in an athletics competition provided there is not a scheduling conflict.
- Pentathletes will be recognized at competitions with a different colored lanyard on their medal to distinguish them from traditional event awards.

Athletics Rabbit Percentages

Track Events

All track events will utilize a 25 percent rabbit percentage.

Field Events

- All throws will utilize a 35 percent rabbit percentage.
- All jumps will utilize a 20 percent rabbit percentage.
- The pentathlon will utilize a 20 percent rabbit percentage.

Relay Information

400m (4 x 100), 1600m (4 x 400), Unified Sports® relays and wheelchair relay

- Relay teams will be placed in divisions by age groups: junior, senior and masters. Athletes in different age divisions may participate on the same team if necessary. In this case, the team must be entered in the oldest age division represented. Alternates are considered team members and their ages will also be considered in determining the age division the team will enter.
 - Team members and alternates may not be listed as team members or alternates on any other team.
 - Team member rosters must be finalized during registration. Teams not meeting the 4 member minimum will be scratched following registration.
 - Team members must remain the same for both prelims and finals.

Mixed-Gender Relays

- Mixed-gender (a team consisting of any combination of males and females) relays will be offered at the chapter level at the Summer Games.
- Area athletics competition committees will have the option to offer mixed-gender relays at their area competition should their facilities and schedule allow.
- NOTE: All mixed-gender relays will be run in the male division, regardless of the number of females (1, 2 or 3) on the four person relay team.

25m & 50m Assisted Race

This event provides athletes the opportunity to run, jog and/or walk without being disqualified for running or jogging in a walking event.

4 x 25m Wheelchair Shuttle Relay

- Each competitor will complete 25 meters of the relay.
- Verbal prompts will be allowed while walking in front of an impaired athlete using a wheelchair, provided that no physical assistance is given and it is not impeding the athlete.

Field Events Information

Standing Long Jump

Weather and facilities permitting, the Standing Long Jump will take place where athletes jump into a sand pit, usually at the Running Long Jump venue.

Running Long Jump

A minimum of **one meter** is required for this event. Coaches may request from an official the opportunity to place a take-off mark.

High Jump

The minimum opening height for High Jump is **one meter**. The bar will be raised in **three cm** increments for each successful jump after that.

Pentathlon High Jump

The same procedures apply from High Jump to Pentathlon High Jump. However, since these athletes are working for POINTS, should a coach request it, their athlete may attempt to gain more points by jumping in **one cm** increments. This accommodation is made only if requested and only after the official event is finished.

Tennis Ball Throw

The maximum distance allowed for the Tennis Ball Throw is **10 meters**. Should your athlete throw beyond 10 meters, that throw will be marked as a scratch and will not be used in scoring. Should they do this on all three attempts, it will result in a disqualification and a Participant ribbon awarded. In this event, we do allow competitors to throw three consecutive times in the spirit of efficiency and athlete safety.

Softball Throw

The maximum distance allowed for the Softball Throw is **35 meters** . Should your athlete throw beyond 35 meters, that throw will be marked as a scratch and will not be used in scoring. Should they do this on all three attempts in the Pre-Lim round, it will result in a disqualification and they will not go to Finals. Should they do this in Finals, it will result in a disqualification and they will receive a Participant ribbon.

Mini Jav

Female (all age groups): 300g

Male (ages 8-15): 300g

Male (16 and older): 400g

Necessary equipment found at www.turbojav.com and www.gophersports.com .

Shot Put

Female (8-11): 2kg

Male (8-11): 3kg

Female (12 & older): 3kg

Male (12 and older): 4kg

A **Wheelchair Shot Put** division will be allowed for athletes using a wheelchair. Both Male and Female competitors will use the 2kg shot. If an athlete chooses, they are allowed to compete in the regular division of Shot Put, but the weight of the shot must match the competitors in this group.

Pentathlon Procedures at Chapter Summer Games

A detailed schedule of events will be given prior to competition. There is no longer an official Pentathlon Coordinator at Chapter Summer Games. Each Coach is responsible for getting their athlete to the appropriate staging time for their events. Please have your schedule and your map and be prepared to have your athlete ready. All scoring will be completed by the Officials running each individual event. Awarding will follow competition on the second day as soon as the scores can be tallied.

Basketball

Events Offered

The following events are sanctioned by Special Olympics Texas and are to be offered at all local, area and chapter competitions. The actual events scheduled and conducted at local, area and chapter competitions will be determined by a minimum number of entries in each event.

- Unified Sports® Team Competition 5-on-5
- Traditional 5-on-5 Team Competition
- Traditional 3-on-3 Team Competition
 - 8 foot and 10 foot goal divisions
- Individual Skills
- Team Skills

General Information

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall govern all Special Olympics basketball competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon National Federation of High School Coaches Association (NFHSA) rules for basketball. National Federation of High School Coaches Association (NFHSA) rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules. In such cases, the official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall apply.

Individual Skills Competition

The individual skills contest is a developmental opportunity.

Basketball Skills will consist of three events: Target Pass, 10M Dribble and Spot Shot. Speed Dribble may be substituted for 10M Dribble. Entrants who want to substitute Speed Dribble for the 10M Dribble, must register to participate in Basketball Skills and the Speed Dribble (*event code: BBSPDR*).

Team Skills Competition

Each team for Team Skills will have a maximum roster size of 8 athletes.

 [Download the Basketball Team Evaluation Questionnaire](#)

Team Competition

These are modifications of FIBA and NFHSA rules which may be used when conducting Special Olympics basketball team competitions.

- A SOTX Basketball Team Evaluation Questionnaire (TEQ) Form must be completed and submitted with athlete entries prior to every area, regional