

- attire, the gymnast may compete in gymnastic slippers or bare feet.
- Female gymnasts shall wear a leotard, have bare legs, and have bare feet, white peds or gymnastic slippers. Flesh colored tights with bare feet are permitted, but not recommended.
- Qualifying scores from area competition will be used to determine ability grouping, within age groups at Summer Games. Entry forms must include scores and/or levels.
- The official entry form appears on pages P-20 to P-21.

Levels:

- Age group divisions will be followed.
- There are five levels of competition:
 - Level A – compulsory (male and female)
 - Level B (beginner) – compulsory (male and female)
 - Level 1 (beginner) – compulsory (female)
 - Level 2 (intermediate) – compulsory (female)
 - Level 3 (advanced) – compulsory (female)
- Coaches will determine in which level of competition to place their athletes. The athletes must be able to safely perform all of the skills in that level.
- In all-round competition, athletes must compete at the same level in all events.
- In artistic gymnastics events at the chapter level, a gymnast specializing in particular events may compete on two different levels, with a one level difference between them.
In rhythmic events, athletes must compete in all events at the same level.

Required Routine Specifications:

- Compulsory routines will be followed in all levels.
- Female gymnasts may specialize by competing in one or more events, up to a maximum of five events. Male gymnasts may specialize by competing in one or more events, up to a maximum of seven events.
- Gymnasts competing for all-round awards will compete in all events offered at their competition level.
- Female gymnasts that compete in artistic gymnastics may not compete in rhythmic gymnastics.

Soccer

In 2017, team soccer events (*Traditional and Unified*) at the Chapter Games level will be offered as an indoor soccer event only. This will be the second year that SOTX will be offering indoor soccer at Summer Games, and this is a trial to see if indoor soccer should become the permanent and only soccer option offered at the Chapter level. The Chapter SMT will reevaluate for the 2018 season after collecting survey results and feedback following the 2017 event.

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.

An athlete may participate in one of the following events:

- 11-a-side team competition and Unified Sports® team
- 5-a-side (modified) team competition and Unified Sports® team
- Individual skills - dribble, shoot, control and pass

General Information

- All soccer coaches must obtain a copy of the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for complete details regarding classes, competition and safety requirements. Rules can also be obtained from the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).
- In general, Special Olympics soccer competition is conducted according to the governing body rules. Modified (5-a-side) soccer has been endorsed by Special Olympics Texas as a means of stimulating growth in the sport of soccer.

Entries

- The Soccer Team Evaluation Questionnaire Form (TEQ) must be submitted with athlete entries prior to every area, regional, and chapter competition.
- The roster maximum for 11-a-side is 20.
- The roster maximum for 5-a-side is 10.

Attire

- Thermal shorts must be the same as the predominant color of shorts.
- Soccer footwear shall consist of turf shoes, soccer cleats with rubber cleats or tennis shoes. Players may not wear anything that may be dangerous or cause injury to another player.
- Due to safety risks, assisted devices such as canes, walkers, wheelchairs and service dogs are prohibited from use in team sports. Athletes who require assisted devices may compete in Individual Skills contests if they meet the performance requirements.

Game

- Players with a bleeding wound must leave the field. They may not return until the bleeding is stopped.
- The team winning the coin toss chooses ends. The other team kicks off.
- A goal may be scored from kickoff or a goal kick directly.
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward on kickoffs; also, when it is kicked and moves on free kicks.

- If a keeper handles a ball after receiving it on a kick-in or throw-in from his team, an indirect free kick will be awarded at that spot. Please note that the keeper may not control the kick-in or throw-in with his/her feet, then pick it up.
- Failing to respect the required distance on restarts is a cautionable offense.
- Delaying the restart is a cautionable offense. This includes such actions as kicking the ball away and excessive celebration.
- Offensive, insulting and abusive language replaces foul and abusive language. This may lead to ejection from the game.
- The keeper may now move on his line at the taking of penalty kicks.
- In 5-a-side play, throws-ins are allowed as an alternative option to kick-ins when the ball crosses the sideline.
- A keeper may not hold the ball more than five to six seconds without being subject to penalties for time wasting.
- On an indirect free kick, the ball only needs to move before the second touch; it does not need to roll full circumference.
- The referee must be told if the goalie is substituted/changed.
- Athletes and Unified Partners younger than 11 years old shall not engage in heading, either in practices or in games.

Soccer Overtime

Effective immediately, Special Olympics Texas will utilize overtime (as written in the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules) for all area and chapter level soccer competitions; therefore, no soccer game shall end in a tie.

Unified Sports® Soccer

- *A team is allowed to play with a maximum of five and a minimum of three during competition. Only the following line-ups are allowed-3 athletes and 2 partners, 2 athletes and 2 partners, 2 athletes and 1 partner.*
 - Teams follow FIFA and Special Olympics rules.
 - Partners, people without intellectual disabilities, must be identified on lineups and lineups must be exchanged between coaches.
 - Teams must have three athletes and two partners on the field at all times. If the ratio is not maintained at anytime, the team not in compliance must forfeit.
 - A non-playing, dual-certified bench coach must be designated at the beginning of the match. The coach may not be listed as a player for that game or enter the game as a player.
 - Dominant play will be a judgment call determined by the officials on the field. Penalty will be a verbal warning and subsequent calls will result in a yellow card on the offending player.

Dominant play is defined as: an action or play by a player that does not allow another teammate to play their position. All players shall be allowed meaningful involvement and play.

Tennis

General Information

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules and the United States Tennis Association (USTA) rules shall govern all Special Olympics tennis competitions. USTA rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Summer Sports Rules shall apply.

Divisions Offered

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

Individual Skills

Level 1

- One skill level with red ball
- Court size: 42' x 27'

Match Play (men and women for each division)

Level 2

- Red Ball
 - Singles
 - Doubles
 - Unified Sports®
 - Court Size: 42' x 27' (Singles)
 - Court Size: 42' x 27' (Doubles)

Level 3

- Orange Ball
 - Singles
 - Doubles
 - Unified Sports®
 - Court Size: 78' x 27' (Singles)
 - Court Size: 78' x 27' (Doubles)