



Teachers and Coaches,

We are excited to begin another year of Special Olympics Wake County! Please share this information with anyone who will be assisting to coach and train athletes. Please also share this information with other teachers at your school to make sure that they have received this information.

Providing these opportunities for athletes is a team effort! This year our office will provide the paperwork (and process), practice guides, and competition opportunities for Basketball Skills and Track & Field. Teachers/coaches play an invaluable role in training athletes, turning in scores and required paperwork for competition and assisting our office with getting paperwork from the athletes/families. Teachers/coaches are the link that connects these opportunities with athletes. WCPSS Central Office provides funding and transportation support for the field trips to get the athletes to competition. And, parents/guardians complete required forms for athletes to participate in Special Olympics. Without each of us working together, athletes wouldn't have the opportunity to compete!

The program is open to all eligible athletes enrolled in the WCPSS. All athletes who meet Special Olympics Eligibility Requirements are welcome to participate and attend competition. (Please refer to the enclosed Athlete Eligibility Requirements.) Each of our competitions offer 4 event categories or skill levels: Young Athletes (for 2-7 year olds), Developmental (ages 8 and up; primarily for those with physical disabilities or more significant needs), Lead-Up (ages 8 and up; for moderate skill level), and Traditional (ages 8 and up; for higher skill level).

Please note below the events and important dates for the 2015-2016 competitions. ** Middle schools with younger students or with lower skill level athletes may choose to attend Youth Days.

Basketball Skills

****Pre-Registration DUE 9/25/2015, Athlete Forms & Scores DUE 10/23/2015**

North	Middle/High	Thursday, November 12	Green Rd Community Center
North	Elem.	Friday, November 13	Green Rd Community Center
South	Middle/High	Wednesday, November 18	Cary Bond Park Community Center
South	Elem.	Thursday, November 19	Cary Bond Park Community Center
Central	Middle/High	Tuesday, December 1	Laurel Hills Community Center
Central	Elem.	Thursday, December 3	Laurel Hills Community Center

Spring Games (Track & Field)

****Pre-Registration DUE 9/25/2015, Athlete Forms & Scores DUE 4/1/2016**

North	Middle/High	Wednesday, April 20 (rain day Apr 22)	Ravenscroft School
North	Elem.	Thursday, April 21 (rain day Apr 22)	Ravenscroft School
South	Middle/High	Wednesday, May 4 (rain day May 6)	Cary Academy
South	Elem.	Thursday, May 5 (rain day May 6)	Cary Academy

We will send out reminders prior to due dates for information and will provide additional event specific information prior to the events.

Beyond these opportunities, SOWC offers approximately 18 other seasonal team and individual sport opportunities. Enclosed is a SOWC Interest Form that will allow families to request information about these other opportunities. Please share this information with any athlete ages 8 and up.

We look forward to seeing you and your athletes at competition!

Christen Winstead
Special Olympics Wake County Local Coordinator



Guide to Participating with Special Olympics Wake County

1. Register your classroom with SOWC

Complete and return the Local Games Pre-Registration Form and Athlete Roster via email by the noted deadlines.

*Register ONLY for the sport(s) where you plan to attend the competition. Classrooms should pre-register for Spring Games by the September due date as noted.

*List your athletes in alphabetical order (last name first) and include their full and correct last name, first name, and date of birth. You can include nick or preferred names in quotes with their first name.

*After we receive your Local Games Pre-Registration form and Athlete Roster, we will “process” your classroom. We will send you a list showing the status of each athlete’s Application for Participation in Special Olympics (APF/medical and release forms), along with copies to send to the parent/guardian for any athlete who needs to get them completed.

2. Complete and submit the WCPSS Transportation Forms

Please contact Stephanie Shaw (sashaw@wcpss.net) or Caroletta Daniels (cdaniels3@wcpss.net) for the specific form and instructions to get your field trip to the competition approved.

3. Practice with your Athletes

Practice the sports skills with your athletes for at least one hour each week (more if possible) for a minimum of 8 weeks. We encourage you to get a PE instructor involved if possible. If you need help getting started, let us know and we’ll try to assist.

*Sport rules and information for training your athletes are included as an attachment.

4. Athlete Forms & Deadlines

It is the teacher/coach responsibility to ensure athlete forms are received by our office. Athlete Participation Forms are valid for 3 years. Current completed athlete forms should be submitted to our office (by email or fax) by the noted deadlines.

**Athletes who do not have updated forms to our office by the dates indicated will not be eligible to participate in competition. No exceptions.

5. Event Registration & Submitting Scores

Included are classroom entry forms for both Basketball Skills and Spring Games competitions. After training your athletes to prepare for competition, their scores must be submitted to our office by email, using the attached entry forms and by the noted deadlines.

**Entry forms submitted after this date may not be eligible to participate in competition.

Special Olympics Wake County Contact Information

Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department
Specialized Recreation and Inclusion Services
c/o Special Olympics Wake County
2401 Wade Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27607

Phone: 919.996.2147
Fax: 919.831.6470
Email: Special.Olympics@raleighnc.gov



Special Olympics Wake County Athlete Eligibility Requirements

We consider all ID, MU, and AU students, age 2 and above, automatically eligible. Some mainstreamed, OCS, CCR and other similar students may be eligible as well.

Students must be 8 years old to compete in regular sports/events or 2-7 years old to participate in the non-competitive Young Athletes program associated with each sport.

Students must have an intellectual disability. A person is considered to have an intellectual disability if that person satisfies any one of the following requirements: 1-the person has been identified by an agency/professional as having an intellectual disability as determined by their localities. 2-the person has a cognitive delay, as determined by the standardized measures such as intelligent quotient (IQ). 3-the person has a closely related developmental disability, meaning the person has functional limitations in both general learning and adaptive skills such as in recreation, work, independent living, self-discretion and self-care.

Students can have additional disabilities, but persons whose functional limitations are based SOLELY on a physical, behavioral, or emotional disability or specific learning or sensory disability are NOT eligible to participate in Special Olympics.

Athletes need to fall within the described eligibility standards but they do NOT have to be "certified" eligible by a doctor. We trust the teacher and/or parent judgment.

Students must have a S.O. Release and Medical form completed and on file with our office by the deadline for each event.