

Important Information about Special Olympics Allen County

Weather policy:

- Indoor activities are canceled only when the event is held inside of a school or a building that is closed for the day due to inclement weather.
- Outdoor activities will be held as scheduled. If the weather is not suitable for practice, a cancellation will only be made on site at the time the event is to begin. Remember: It may be raining on your side of town while the sun may be shining at our scheduled practice.
- Travel only if you feel safe.
- Dress in layers for our Indiana weather

Attendance Policy

Special Olympics Indiana requires that athletes participate in a minimum of 8 practice sessions prior to participating in an area or state competition. This will provide each athlete the opportunity to develop not only his or her sports skills, but also the rules, knowledge, etiquette, and an improved sports performance. We want our athletes to be well trained and working towards a healthy lifestyle. This keeps our competitions fair and safe for everyone. Please make our practices a priority in your weekly schedule. We appreciate knowing of your absence in the planning of our events so that we can secure the proper number of volunteers.

Call 260.402.1302, leave a voice message or text, and leave your name if you cannot attend.

Competitions:

If you sign up for a competition, it is expected that you will participate. Area and State competitions require entry fees to be paid by SOAC. No refunds are given to our program from the state. If you agree to participate and do not show up, you will be charged the entry fee for that tournament. You will not qualify for future participation in any sports until this fee is paid in full. Entry fees and their deadlines are set by Special Olympics Indiana.

Athletes:

All of our sports practices are approximately one hour in length. Competitions are longer in duration. It is vital that you make every effort to remain at the site with your athlete. Due to the possibility of injury, a behavioral issue, or a medical emergency, it is important that you remain and observe. We must keep all of our athletes and volunteers safe. If your athlete requires one on one assistance, please ask for help at check in each week. If an extra volunteer is available, we will assign them. Our practice sessions are a great opportunity for your athlete to work with other athletes in a supervised setting.

Volunteers:

Our program is COMPLETELY organized and run by volunteers. The vast majority of these volunteers have full time jobs. A County Management Team meets every month to plan our sports and fundraising events. An immediate response to your email, text, or voice mail is not possible.

Facility Use:

Although our sports programming comes to you at NO cost, SOAC pays rental for all of our sports facilities. Most facilities charge us full price. If you know of a site that fits our program needs and our mission that we can utilize at no cost, please contact us.

Sports facilities needed: Basketball, Track & Field, Golf, Corn Toss, Bowling, and Floor Hockey.

Uniforms and Equipment:

Uniforms and equipment can be very costly for our program because of the quantity that we need. All athletes are given a green t-shirt once you return your participation form and have a current medical report on file with us. Please wear this to ALL competitions unless otherwise instructed. The green t-shirt identifies you as a part of the Allen County program. If you need a replacement, an additional shirt can be purchased for \$7. Other uniforms and t-shirts vary in price based on the specific sport.

Fundraisers:

We have a few fundraisers organized each year. We expect each athlete/family to volunteer your time and/or make a monetary donation to help make these fundraisers successful. These events include the Polar Plunge, Red Robin Tip a Cop, and for the Mad Ants ball toss at their games as well as various other fundraisers each year. These events, along with private and corporate donations, are our only means of raising the funds needed to continue to provide year round sports programming at no cost to our athletes.

Donations:

Special Olympics is a NO cost program for the athletes as the founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver developed in 1968. However, it is NOT a free program. We must pay for uniforms, t shirts, jackets, sports equipment, entry fees, gym rental, and facility rental, golf course fees, bowling fees, printing costs, office supplies, and miscellaneous items on a regular basis.

We are in need of monetary donations as we rely on private and corporate help to finance our program. Please consider making a donation to Special Olympics Allen County to help support your son, daughter, or family member to have the opportunity to continue to play sports. We appreciate your help and support.

Our website:

www.specialolympicsallencounty.org

Please sign up as an athlete so that you will receive all of our sports practice and fundraiser information.

We participate in the Area 3 competitions which is comprised of the following counties: Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wells, Whitley. We are part of the Northeast Indiana region of Special Olympics Indiana.