



# Knox County Special Olympics Fact Sheet

## Eligibility

Any person eight (8) years of age or older who is identified as having an intellectual disability by an agency or a professional is eligible to participate.

Be a resident of Knox County

Have all required Special Olympics Ohio releases and physical complete and submitted.

## Sport Programs Currently Offered

Below are the sports programs currently offered in Knox County. For more details about each program offered, please visit our website [www.knoxdd.com/special-olympics](http://www.knoxdd.com/special-olympics)

<b>Spring/Summer Season</b>			<b>Winter Season</b>		
<i>Athletes can participate in all these events locally as their schedule allows.</i>			<i>Skills and Team Basketball compete at the Winter State Games.</i>		
<i>Athletics, Bocce, Bowling, and Powerlifting all compete at the State Summer Games. Athletes will need to pick one (1) for regional and state game competition consideration.</i>			<i>Athletes will need to pick one (1) to compete in for the entire season.</i>		
	<b>Athletics</b> (Track & Field)	<b>April - June</b>		<b>Basketball</b> Individual Skills	<b>October - March</b>
	<b>Bocce</b> Doubles	<b>April - June</b>		<b>Basketball</b> Team Basketball	<b>October - March</b>
	<b>Bowling</b> Singles	<b>January - June</b>			
	<b>Powerlifting</b>	<b>March - June</b>			

Additional sports may be offered if coaches and practice venues are available.

## Information Sharing & Sports Registration

Once all required forms are submitted, Athletes are welcome to sign-up for sports offered.

Sign-up notifications and general updates are sent to athletes and their supports by email and text.

For sport-specific information, athletes and supports will be given an access code to a Team Page on the SportsYou App.

Registration for each sports program will take place 2-3 weeks before the sport starts. Athletes must sign-up by the deadline given to participate.

### **Athlete Fees**

According to Special Olympics rules, training and competition is free to athletes.

Expenses associated with each sport (umpires/referees, facility fees, competition/entry fees, equipment, uniforms) are covered by Knox County Special Olympics.

Extra expenses like overnight lodging, meals, transportation are the responsibility of the athlete and their supports.

Knox County Special Olympics does fundraise to help us afford equipment, state games entry fees, uniforms, transportation, etc. Athletes and their supports are welcome to participate but it is not a requirement.

### **Athlete Expectations & Code of Conduct**

We ask that all athletes that sign up for a sport understand it is a commitment and they are expected to attend to all practices. Coaches will be taking attendance at every practice and competition. This is a Special Olympics requirement.

If you are sick, you should not attend practice until you have recovered. If you are injured and cannot come to practice, you will need a note from your physician to return.

All athletes, volunteers, spectators, and coaches must abide by the Special Olympics Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct is discussed at the beginning of each sports program season with athletes. Violations of the code of conduct may result in suspension from competitions and/or the program.

Smoking and the use of alcohol are not allowed at any Special Olympic program or event while in uniform.

### **Personal Safety**

Please remember that people who participate in Special Olympics will have different personal space preferences. We ask that all athletes and volunteers treat each other respectfully and limit physical contact to handshakes and high fives.

### **Supervision**

If an athlete requires supervision for any safety, medical, dietary, and/or behavioral reasons, they must be accompanied by an adult family member or homemaker/personal care (HPC) staff that is familiar with their needs.

Please note that Special Olympics volunteers and coaches have not been trained on the athlete's Individual Support Plan (ISP) and are unaware of potential concerns.

### **Transportation**

Athletes are responsible for their transportation to practices, events, or tournaments. Sometimes, Knox County Special Olympics will provide a group transportation option, but this may not be available for every event.

### **Coaches + Volunteers**

Coaches complete required certification with Special Olympics Ohio including background checks, online training, and a Special Olympics Orientation.

**If you have any questions, please contact Talisha Beha at  
330-390-5175 (call/text) or [tbeha@knoxdd.com](mailto:tbeha@knoxdd.com)**