



USA NATIONAL GAMES • NEBRASKA



# FLAG FOOTBALL COACHES HANDBOOK

July 18-23, 2010



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Welcome to Nebraska!</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>General Information</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Mission Statement.....	4
Contact Information.....	4
Coaches' Responsibilities.....	5
Coaches Code of Conduct.....	6
Athletes' Responsibilities.....	8
Athlete Code of Conduct.....	8
Check in and Registration at the Competition Venue.....	9
Coaches and Officials Desk – Sports Information/Results.....	9
<b>Flag Football Information</b> .....	<b>10</b>
National Governing Body.....	10
Competition Personnel.....	10
Introduction to Venue.....	10
Events.....	11
Schedule.....	11
Head Coaches Meetings.....	12
Competition Rules.....	12
Assessment.....	19
Divisioning.....	19
Honest Effort Rule.....	19
Competition Staging.....	21
Uniform/Equipment Information.....	21
Health and Safety.....	21
Protests and Appeals.....	21
Awards Ceremonies.....	22
<b>Functional Area Information</b> .....	<b>23</b>
Credentials and Welcome Center.....	23
Delegation Accommodations.....	25
Food Services.....	25
Family and Guest Lounges.....	26
Transportation and Parking.....	26
Public Safety and Security.....	29
Medical.....	31
Media Policy.....	32
Merchandise.....	33
<b>Ceremonies and Activities</b> .....	<b>33</b>
Opening Ceremony.....	33
Closing Ceremony.....	34
Clinics and Demos.....	34
Special Olympics Town.....	34

To download the most current information, please visit  
[www.2010specialolympics.org](http://www.2010specialolympics.org)

# WELCOME TO NEBRASKA!



On behalf of the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games, I would like to warmly welcome all athletes, coaches, family members, friends and officials.

Together with over 9,000 officials and volunteers, Nebraska is ready to make the USA National Games the most memorable event ever. This is the largest multi-sport event in the history of Nebraska and one of the largest sporting events in the United States in 2010.

As coaches, these Games would not be possible without you. Your athletes look up to you for guidance as their mentor, and the Special Olympics organization could not thank you enough for your involvement in their lives.

This Coaches Handbook is designed to give you the information that will assist you with the sport you are coaching. If you have any questions though, please don't hesitate to ask any of the venue management team members on site. With help from you, we look forward to providing the best possible competitions for the athletes around the country to showcase their talents.

While these games are about competition, it is also about acceptance and unity among people with or without intellectual disabilities. When you are not competing this week, we urge you to take your athletes down to Special Olympics Town, located in Pershing Auditorium, where they can take part in Healthy Athletes and participate in fun, interactive games with the local community.

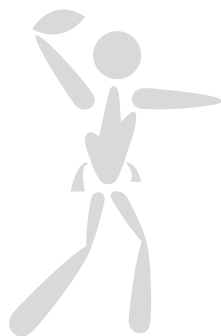
The Games Organizing Committee wishes you and your team all the best this week. Congratulations on making it this far and good luck!

Let the Games begin!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Cooper".

Charles Cooper  
President and CEO

2010 Special Olympics USA National Games



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Mission Statements

### Special Olympics, Inc.

The mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults, eight years of age and older, with intellectual disabilities. This gives athletes continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience the joy of sports, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skill and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

### 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games, Nebraska

The Games aim to create, with the enthusiastic support of the local community, a platform for athletes with intellectual disabilities to achieve their potential, their individual goals, and to showcase their skills to the country. The athletes will share their courage, joy and excitement with all Games participants. This will allow the country to come together to “Be a Fan” of the Special Olympics Movement.

The Games also seeks to promote the Special Olympics Movement and, through peaceful competition in sport, demonstrate to the nation a “barrier-free” attitude that transcends all stereotypes regarding disabilities and creates local communities open and friendly to all.

## Contact Information

Special Olympics, Inc.

1133 19th Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20036-3604 USA

Telephone: 202.628.3630

Fax: 202.824.0200

Website: [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org)

2010 Special Olympics USA National Games

7600 N 70th Street

Lincoln, NE 68517

Telephone: 402.467.2010

Fax: 402.467.0031

Website: [www.2010specialolympics.org](http://www.2010specialolympics.org)

Special Olympics North America

4004 Barrett Drive, Suite 206

Raleigh, NC 27609

Telephone: 919.785.0699

Fax: 919.782.3311

Website: [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org)

## Coaches' Responsibilities

Coaches participating in the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games must accept and carry out these responsibilities. Any disregard or violation of these responsibilities may result in the individual losing his/her coaching privileges:

- Coaches must provide for the general welfare, safety, health, well-being and conduct of each athlete under his/her direct supervision.
- Coaches must abide by the clauses and spirit of the rules and be responsible for conducting himself/herself in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Profanity, taunting and other forms of poor sportsmanship are subject to immediate ejection from competition.
- Coaches must ensure that their delegation be present and accounted for before boarding any official Games Transportation shuttles.
- Coaches shall be knowledgeable about all existing Special Olympics, National and International Governing Body competition rules and regulations applicable to their sport and shall prepare their athletes prior to competition in accordance with those rules.
- Coaches shall ensure that athletes compete in events within their sport that challenge their potential and are appropriate to their ability level.
- Coaches shall be honest and instruct athletes to compete with maximum effort in all competition, in accordance with Special Olympics divisioning rules.
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring that the entry scores and scores achieved during divisioning accurately reflect the ability of the athletes. If, for any reason, the coach does not consider this assessment or score correct, it is the responsibility of that coach to notify the competition management staff.
- Coaches must ensure that each athlete has the opportunity to participate in every game (according to the rules of that sport).
- Coaches must be thoroughly familiar with all information in the Coaches Handbook.
- Coaches must treat athletes, volunteers and competition officials with respect and communicate in a courteous manner.
- Coaches should bring a copy of the Special Olympics, National and International Governing Body Rules for the sport.
- Coaches must report all emergencies to the appropriate authorities after taking immediate action to ensure the health and safety of athletes and other delegation members.
- The consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances is prohibited.
- The use of any tobacco products at all venues is prohibited.

- Inappropriate contact with athletes or volunteers is prohibited.
- Coaches must attend all coaches' meetings as scheduled.
- Coaches must have copies of athlete medical information at all times.

### **Provide the following services to athletes under your supervision:**

- Assurance that athletes are properly hydrated and prepared for the weather, including sunscreen.
- Supervision 24-hours, in cooperation with other coaches and delegation members in the area.
- Assurance that credentials are worn at all times.
- Assurance that athletes are properly attired.
- Assurance that athletes are reporting to competition areas at the proper time.
- Assistance in accounting for luggage and personal items at all times.
- Assistance with participating in demonstrations and other activities.
- Assistance in maximizing the benefits achieved through participation.
- Assistance in being prepared at the proper time and place for special events.
- Knowledge of the medical history of all athletes under your supervision, and assurance that prescribed medications are taken at the appropriate times.
- Assurance that all athletes understand the Athletes' Responsibilities listed later in this handbook.
- Best efforts to engage the athletes in the Healthy Athletes Program.

## **Coaches Code of Conduct**

Special Olympics is committed to the highest ideals of sport and expects all coaches to honor sport and Special Olympics. All Special Olympics coaches agree to observe the following code:

### **Respect for Others**

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, coaches, other volunteers, friends and spectators in Special Olympics.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
- I will be a positive role model for the athletes I coach.

### **Ensure a Positive Experience**

- I will ensure that for each athlete I coach, the time spent with Special Olympics is a positive experience.
- I will respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each athlete.

- I will ensure each athlete competes in events that challenge the athlete's potential and are appropriate to the athlete's ability.
- I will be fair, considerate and honest with athletes and communicate with athletes using simple, clear language.
- I will ensure that accurate scores are provided for entry of an athlete into any event.
- I will instruct each athlete to perform to the best of the athlete's ability at all preliminaries and final heats in accordance with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.

## **Act Professionally and Take Responsibility for My Actions**

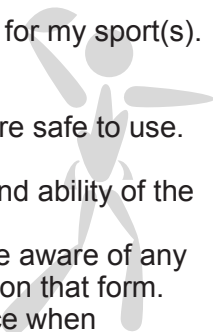
- My language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved in the sport (athletes, coaches, opponents, officials, administrators, parents, spectators, media, etc.).
- I will encourage athletes to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I will not drink alcohol, smoke or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics at training sessions, competition or during games.
- I will refrain from any form of personal abuse toward athletes and others, including inappropriate or unwanted sexual advances on others, verbal, physical and emotional abuse.
- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care.
- I will abide by the Special Olympics policy on the prohibition of coaches dating athletes.

## **Quality Service to the Athletes**

- I will seek continual improvement through performance evaluation and ongoing coach education.
- I will be knowledgeable about the Sports Rules and skills of the sport(s) I coach.
- I will provide a plan for a regular training program.
- I will keep copies of the medical, training and competition records for each athlete I coach.
- I will follow the Special Olympics Sports Rules for my sport(s).

## **Health and Safety of Athletes**

- I will ensure that the equipment and facilities are safe to use.
- I will ensure that the equipment, rules, training and environment are appropriate for the age and ability of the athletes.
- I will review each athlete's medical form and be aware of any limitations on that athlete's participation noted on that form.
- I will encourage athletes to seek medical advice when



required.

- I will maintain the same interest and support toward sick and injured athletes.
- I will allow further participation in training and competition only when appropriate.
- I understand that if I violate this Code of Conduct I will be subject to a range of consequences, up to and including being prohibited from coaching in Special Olympics.

## **Athletes' Responsibilities**

**Athletes participating in the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games must accept and carry out these responsibilities. Any disregard or violation of these responsibilities may result in the individual being disqualified from competition:**

- Athletes must abide by the clauses and spirit of the rules and be responsible for conducting himself/herself in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Profanity, taunting and other forms of poor sportsmanship are subject to immediate ejection from competition.
- Athletes must participate honestly and with maximum effort in all preliminary trials and/or finals.
- Athletes shall be knowledgeable about the existing Special Olympics, National and International Governing Body rules and regulations applicable to their sport and shall be prepared for competition in accordance with those rules.
- Athletes shall respect all competition facilities and equipment.
- Athletes shall treat all athletes, volunteers and competition officials with respect and communicate in a courteous manner.
- Athletes shall treat their opponents with respect and communicate in a courteous manner.
- The consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances is prohibited.
- The use of any tobacco products at competition venues is prohibited.
- Inappropriate contact with other athletes or volunteers is prohibited.

## **Athletes Code of Conduct**

All Special Olympics athletes and Unified Sports® Partners agree to a code of conduct that outlines expectations for sportsmanship, training and competition, and personal responsibility.

## **Sportsmanship**

- I will practice good sportsmanship.
- I will act in ways that bring respect to me, my coaches, my team and Special Olympics.
- I will not use bad language.



- I will not swear or insult other persons.
- I will not fight with other athletes, coaches, volunteers or staff.

## **Training and Competition**

- I will train regularly.
- I will learn and follow the rules of my sport.
- I will listen to my coaches and the officials and ask questions when I do not understand.
- I will always try my best during training, divisioning and competitions.
- I will not “hold back” in preliminaries just to get into an easier final heat.

## **Responsibility for My Actions**

- I will not make inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal or sexual advances on others.
- I will not drink alcohol, smoke or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics at training sessions, competition or during Games.
- I will not take drugs for the purpose of improving my performance.
- I will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules.
- I understand that if I do not obey this Code of Conduct my Program, a SONA member or a Games Organizing Committee member may not allow me to participate.

## **Check-In and Registration at the Competition Venue**

Upon arrival at the venue, all head coaches must check-in daily at the Coaches and Officials Desk and notify the desk of any athletes that are not present that were scheduled to compete; and the reasoning for each athlete that is not present.

## **Coaches and Officials Desk — Sports Information/Results**

### **Coaches and Officials Desk at the Competition Venue**

The competition venue will have a Coaches and Officials Desk. This desk will be located within the venue where it is easily accessible for all coaches and officials. The Coaches and Officials Desk will serve as the main point of communications between the sports management personnel, officials and the coaches. The Coaches and Officials Desk will be open at least 45 minutes prior to the first event of each day and remain in operation until the last event of the day has been completed.

The Coaches and Officials Desk will distribute start lists, heat sheets, bulletins, results, competition updates, technical forms, protest/appeal forms, and other sport-specific information. Team

officials (registered coaches and delegates) are encouraged to stop at the Coaches and Officials Desk upon arrival at the competition venue and pick up all information updates. Team officials wishing to contact the competition management personnel may do so through the Coaches and Officials Desk.

## **Results**

Results will be available at the Coaches and Officials Desk. The results will also be available at the Delegation Service Center (located at Abel Residence Hall). The Delegation Service Center will also serve as the central communication point between the Games Organizing Committee and the HOD's.

# **FLAG FOOTBALL INFORMATION**

## **National Governing Body**

Special Olympics Inc.  
1133 19th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
USA  
Telephone: 202.628.3630  
Fax: 202.824.0200  
Website: [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org)

## **Competition Personnel**

Dave Breen	Jim Carveth
SOI Technical Delegate	Sport Commissioner

Mike Mullen  
Venue Director

## **Introduction to Venue**

**Mabel Lee Hall Fields, UNL Campus**



Mabel Lee Hall Fields are located just south of the Harper, Schramm, Smith dorms in the middle of the UNL campus. The new fields are located directly east of Mabel Lee Hall (and north of Teachers College Hall).

The two synthetic turf fields are the size of two football fields side by side, with gracious room on the sides for spectators. The former west dugout and press box of the softball facilities provides restrooms and an athletic training area for the Mabel Lee Fields.

The construction for two new synthetic turf fields at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was completed in September 2008. The turf fields have an estimated 12-year life span before needing to be re-surfaced.

The brand new turf fields are on the site of the softball diamond that was the former home of the Husker softball team prior to their relocation to Bowlin Stadium at Haymarket Park in downtown Lincoln.

## Events

- Team Competition
- Unified Sports Team Competition

## Schedules (subject to change)

### Practice Information

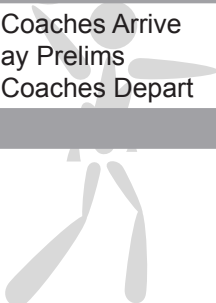
Practice will be held at the Mabel Lee Fields on Sunday, July 18 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

### Warm-up

Athletes need to warm up away from the competition fields unless one of the fields is not in use.

## Competition

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sunday, July 18	8:15 AM	Athletes and Coaches Arrive
	8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Head Coaches Meeting
	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	M / U Practice
	12:15 PM	Athletes and Coaches Depart
DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday, July 19	7:45 AM	Athletes and Coaches Arrive
	8:30 AM - 12:30 PM	M / U Pool Play Prelims
	12:45 PM	Athletes and Coaches Depart
DATE	TIME	EVENT



Tuesday, July 20	7:45 AM	Athletes and Coaches Arrive
	8:30 AM -12:30 PM	M / U Pool Play Prelims
	12:45 PM	Athletes and Coaches Depart
	6:30 PM	Athletes and Coaches Arrive
	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Clinic
	9:15 PM	Athletes and Coaches Depart

DATE	TIME	EVENT
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Wednesday, July 21	7:45 AM	Athletes and Coaches Arrive
	8:30 AM - 12:30 PM	M / U Pool Play Prelims
	12:45 PM	Athletes and Coaches Depart

DATE	TIME	EVENT
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Thursday, July 22	3:15 PM	Athletes and Coaches Arrive
	4:00 PM	M / U Finals
	5:00 PM-11:00 PM	Awards
	11:15 PM	Athletes and Coaches Depart

DATE	TIME	EVENT
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Friday, July 23	OFF	OFF
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## Head Coaches Meetings

Head Coaches meetings will be held daily at the competition, unless otherwise noted in Flag Footballs final schedules. Head Coaches for each delegation involved in competition must attend these meetings, as they are an important method of communication between Competition Management, Officials, Head Coaches and their delegation.

The first coaches meeting will take place on Sunday, July 18 at 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM.

Other coaches meetings may take place and will be announced in sufficient time with information at the coaches and officials desk.

## Competition Rules

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Flag Football shall govern all Special Olympics competitions.

Special Olympics has created these rules based upon National Football League’s Air It Out Flag Football rules, which shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Flag Football.

## Points of Emphasis

1. Special Olympics Flag Football is non-contact.
2. In all aspects of Special Olympics Flag Football, rulings shall

- be made with player safety as the primary consideration.
3. The team roster may contain a maximum of 12 players.
  4. Teams shall field five (5) players to start the game (required).
  5. Teams may continue with a minimum of four (4) players, if necessary due to disqualification or injury.
  6. Teams will be grouped in divisions based on a classification round of games.
  7. No team shall repeatedly commit fouls which halve the distance to the goal line.
  8. Neither team shall commit any act which, in the opinion of the referee, tends to make a travesty of the game. This includes intentionally committing fouls to gain an advantage.
  9. The referee will enforce any penalty he/she considers equitable, including the award of a score for an unfair act.

### Scoring

1. Touchdown: six (6) points.
2. Extra Point: one (1) point from the 5-yard line, two (2) points from the 10-yard line.
3. Safety: two (2) points.

### Timing

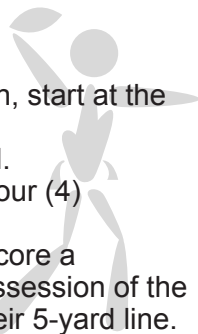
1. The game shall consist of two (2) 20-minute halves (running time).
2. Officials can stop the clock at their discretion (injuries, delays).
3. Each team receives one (1) 60-second time-out per half.
4. An unused time-out in the first half does not carry over to the second half.
5. There shall be a 5-minute break at halftime.

### Coin Toss

1. A coin toss determines first possession.
2. Each team will provide two (2) captains.
3. The officials and team captains will meet three (3) minutes prior to the start of the contest to conduct the coin toss.
4. The winner of the coin toss will choose offense, defense, or end of field to defend. The team winning the coin toss may defer its choice to the second half.

### Possessions

1. All possessions, except following an interception, start at the offensive team's 5-yard line.
2. The offense has four (4) plays to cross mid-field.
3. Once the offense crosses mid-field, they have four (4) additional plays to score a touchdown.
4. If the offensive team fails to cross mid-field or score a touchdown in a prescribed number of plays, possession of the ball changes and the opposite team starts at their 5-yard line.



5. Interceptions change possession of the ball at the spot of the interception.
6. A ball intercepted in the end zone is spotted at the 5-yard line.
7. Each time the ball is spotted (marked ready for play by the official) the team has 30-seconds to snap the ball.

### Positions/Snap

1. The ball must be snapped between the legs to start each play.
2. No minimum number of players is required to line-up on the line of scrimmage.
3. Rushing the Quarterback (QB)
4. All players who rush the Quarterback must be a minimum of 5-yards from the line of scrimmage when the ball is snapped.
5. A special marker, placed by the official, will designate the spot 5-yards from the line of scrimmage.
6. Players not rushing the quarterback may defend the line of scrimmage.
7. Once the Quarterback hands off the ball, the 5-yard zone no longer exists, and all defenders are eligible to rush.

### Running

1. The Quarterback (player receiving the snap) CANNOT run the ball.
2. Only direct hand-offs behind the line of scrimmage are legal. Laterals or pitches of any kind are not allowed.
3. The player who takes a hand-off can pass the ball, as long as he/she does not pass the line of scrimmage.
4. "No Running Zones" are located 5-yards before the mid-field line and goal line.
5. Any ball snapped from these zones must be passed.
6. The purpose of "No Running Zones" is to avoid short yardage power running situations.
7. The ball carrier may not spin, dive, hurdle, or use either arm to shield a defender from grasping his/her flag.
8. The ball is spotted where the ball carrier's belt is when the flag is pulled.

### Passing and Receiving

1. All passes must be forward and received beyond the line of scrimmage.
2. All players are eligible to receive a forward pass, including the Quarterback, if he/she has legally handed-off.
3. Exception: In Unified Sports® divisions, if a partner throws a pass, only athletes are eligible receivers.
4. Only one (1) player is allowed in motion at the snap and he/she may not be moving toward the line of scrimmage at the snap.
5. A player must have at least one (1) foot in bounds when

making a catch.

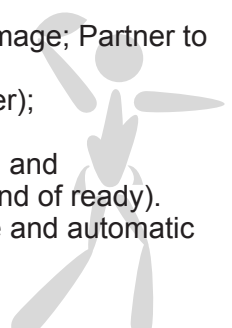
6. Interceptions change possession of the ball at the point of the interception.
7. Exception: A ball intercepted in the end zone is spotted at the 5-yard line.

### Dead Balls/Fumbles

1. There are no fumbles. The ball is spotted where it hits the ground.
2. Play is ruled dead when:
3. The ball carrier's flag is pulled;
4. The ball carrier loses his/her flag;
5. The ball carrier steps out of bounds;
6. The ball carrier's knee or hand touches the ground;
7. A touchdown, extra point, or safety is scored;
8. When during a try-for-point the defense obtains possession of the ball;
9. When a forward pass strikes the ground or is caught simultaneously by opposing players (the offense retains possession);
10. A pass is intercepted (no returns);
11. A receiver catches a ball without his/her flags attached;
12. A snapped ball touches the ground; or
13. When there is an inadvertent whistle.
14. Penalties
15. All penalties are assessed from the line of scrimmage.
16. No penalty may take the ball more than half the distance to the offender's goal line.
17. All penalties are automatically accepted (no declination).

### Sportsmanship/Roughing

1. The officials will disqualify any player who participates in rough or unsportsmanlike play.
2. No warning is required.
3. Offense: 10-yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
4. Illegal Motion (more than one (1) player moving at snap, moving forward at snap);
5. Offside (in neutral zone at snap, false start);
6. Illegal forward pass (not beyond line of scrimmage; Partner to Partner);
7. Pass Interference (picking or pushing defender);
8. Illegal Contact (holding, blocking, bumping);
9. Flag Guarding (driving, spinning, warding off); and
10. Delay of Game (failing to snap within 30 second of ready).
11. Defense: 10-yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
12. Offside (in or beyond neutral zone at snap);



## Pass Interference

1. Illegal Contact (holding, blocking, bumping);
2. Illegal Flag Pull (before receiver has ball); and
3. Illegal Rushing (rushing Quarterback inside 5-yard line).

## Overtime

1. If the score is tied at the end of regulation play.
2. A coin toss is held to determine first possession.
3. Each team receives one (1) play from its own 5-yard line.
4. The team gaining the most yards is awarded one (1) extra point and wins the game.
5. If both teams score a touchdown, or gain the same yardage, the procedure is repeated until one (1) team wins.

## **SUPPLEMENTS TO THE RULES**

### Delay of Game

1. The ball must be put in play promptly and legally and any action or lack of action by either team that tends to prevent this is considered a delay of game.
2. This includes:
3. Interrupting the 30-second count for any reason except for a granted time-out.
4. Consuming more than 30-seconds to snap the ball after it is ready for play.
5. Failing to remove an injured player for whose benefit an excess time-out has been granted.
6. Deliberately advancing the ball after it has been declared dead.

### Diving

1. A defensive or offensive player may dive to catch a pass.
2. Diving is illegal when used to down a player or advance a ball.
3. A player cannot dive in an attempt to gain extra yardage.
4. The team will be penalized accordingly.

### Eligible Receiver

1. All offensive players are eligible to receive a pass, except in Unified Sports® divisions where partners are ineligible when partners are throwing the pass.
2. Unified Sports® teams are expected to comply with this rule without intervention by officials.
3. Failure to “self-patrol” will be considered unsportsmanlike, and will be penalized accordingly.

### False Start

1. No member of the offensive team may simulate the start of the play before the ball is snapped.
2. Handling the Ball



3. Handling the ball is transferring player possession from one teammate to another without throwing or kicking it.
4. A ball carrier may hand the ball backward at any time.
5. No forward hand-offs are allowed (Illegal Pass).

### Hurdling

1. Jumping over or attempting to jump over a player, by the ball carrier, to prevent from being downed or to gain additional yardage is illegal.
2. Note: Jumping over a player who is on the ground to avoid injury, by official's judgment, is legal.

### Inadvertent Whistle

1. In case of an inadvertent whistle the team in possession of the ball may choose to accept the result of the play at the point where the play was blown dead or choose to re-play the down.

### Line of Scrimmage

1. The line of scrimmage for each team is a vertical plane through the point of the ball nearest the team's goal line.
2. Each player on a team must be on its side of the line of scrimmage when the ball is snapped.

### Motion

1. Only one player of the offensive team may be in motion at the snap.
2. This player must be behind the Quarterback and not moving toward its goal line at the time the ball is snapped.
3. If the player comes to a stop he/she must be set for one (1) second.

### Screen Blocking

1. Legally obstructing an opponent without contacting him/her with any part of the screen blocker's body.
2. The screen blocker shall have his/her arms fully extended to the ground (below the waist) either at his/her side, in front, or behind his/her back.
3. Any use of arms, elbows, or legs to initiate contact during the screen block is illegal.
4. A player must be on his/her feet before, during, and after screen blocking.
5. Screen blocking is the only form of legal blocking that can be used by any player at any time.
6. If any of the provisions listed are violated, and contact results, the screener has committed an illegal block.
7. The screen blocker must give an opponent at least one (1) step.
8. The screen blocker must not initiate contact with opponent.

9. The screen blocker may not take a position so close to a moving opponent that this opponent cannot avoid contact by stopping or changing directions.
10. After the snap of the ball, the blocker may move laterally or backward two (2) steps.

### Shielding (Flag Guarding)

1. Runners shall not flag guard by using their hands, arms, or the ball to deny the opportunity for an opponent to pull or remove their flag belt.
2. This includes:
3. Swinging the hand or arm over the flag belt;
4. Placing the ball in a possession over the flag belt; and
5. Lowering the shoulders or arm over the flag belt.

### Shift

1. A shift is the action of one (1) or more offensive players who after taking set positions move to a new position prior to the snap.
2. A player who shifts must reset for one (1) second prior to the snap.

### Snap

1. A snap is the legal act of passing the ball through the legs from the ground to the Quarterback to start a play.

### Substitutions

1. Any player on the roster may enter upon the completion of a play (when the ball is dead).
2. Each substitute must play at least one (1) down prior to being replaced.
3. A replaced player must leave the field immediately.

## **STANDARD RULES FOR UNIFIED SPORTS TEAM**

1. The roster shall contain a proportionate number of athletes and partners.
2. During competition, the line-up shall never exceed three (3) athletes and two (2) partners at any time.
3. Failure to adhere to the required ratio results in a forfeit.
4. Each team shall have an adult non-playing coach responsible for the line-up and conduct of the team during competition.

## **Assessment**

Delegations should properly assess their athletes' abilities and register in the appropriate ability class.

## Divisioning

Athletes will be divisioned for the USA National Games to ensure fair and equitable competition. The divisioning process will make every attempt to yield no fewer than three athletes/ teams in any given division; under no circumstances will there be more than eight athletes / teams per division. Athletes will be divisioned by gender, age and ability; with the focus and priority lying within the ability of the athletes.

If after the divisioning round the coach feels that the score does not reflect the athletes/ teams ability, the coach may make an adjustment by completing the improved performance form found at the Coaches and Officials Desk.

Divisioning of athletes into final competition will be done utilizing the Games Management System (GMS) and is not subject to protest.

## Honest Effort rule

The GOC will use the best available performance records to ensure that all teams are given the opportunity of a fair and challenging competition. These records could include but are not limited to individual and team assessment scores and/or previous competition records. Athletes / teams must participate honestly and with maximum effort in all divisioning, pool play and/or final competitions. The Head Coach has ultimate responsibility for the conduct and participation of the team. Head coaches must encourage and support this honest effort on the part of each athlete and team or they may face penalties and/or sanctions from the Sport Specific Jury.

Divisioning rounds may not be held instead competition will begin with pool play. Teams may be placed into preliminary competition pools based on the team assessment scores. Based upon preliminary pool play, teams could be re-divisioned up to two times until medal round competition.

If competition personnel (Sport Commissioner, Officials, assessment team, Technical Delegate, etc.) determine that an athlete or team have not competed with maximum effort , with the clear intent to gain an unfair advantage, the competition personnel have the right to sanction that athlete, team or coach.

Sanctions may include:

1. Verbal warning to the coach
2. Suspension of the Head coach, support personnel and team from further competition
3. Team and coaches placed on probation
4. Loss of all accumulated points
5. The final ranking of the team may be adjusted for the medal round



## 6. Disqualification from the Games

If the Head Coach feels that their team has been placed in a division that is too low for their team's abilities then it is the Head Coaches responsibility to go to the Sports Management Team and Divisioning Committee to ensure that the issue is addressed. Head coaches for team sports, as per Special Olympics General Rules, must find a meaningful competition opportunity for all athletes on their roster. For the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games, head coaches MUST play every eligible and able bodied athlete on their roster in ALL games. Should an athlete NOT be able to play in a game, due to injury or sickness, the head coach must notify the opposing coach and the scorekeeper/score table prior to the start of the game/match. Coaches found to have violated this policy risk penalties/sanctions up to and including suspension, disqualification and forfeiture of game.

### **Additional Policies**

#### **Improved Performance - Team/Score/Level**

Policy statement: Following divisioning/assessments should a head coach or athlete wish to submit an improved performance time/score for an athlete they may do so by completing and submitting an Improved Performance Score Form within 30 minutes upon completion of the event. This form is to be submitted at the Coaches and Officials Desk. The form must be signed by the head coach.

#### **Additional Explanation or Information:**

Due to the extenuating circumstances, an athlete may underperform during their divisioning event or assessments. To ensure an athlete is not disqualified due to a violation of the Honest Effort Rule, the head coach and athlete has the opportunity to update their time/score/level. The policy ensures that in this situation, an athlete is not disqualified in the breach of the Honest Effort Rule.

#### **Eligibility to Participate in Final Rounds of Competition**

An athlete/team must participate in the divisioning rounds and assessment rounds in order to become eligible to compete in the final rounds of competition.

#### **Additional explanation or information:**

With regard to this policy: A head coach does have the right to protest the decision. An athlete/team who does not show for the divisioning round or assessment round due to Games services (example; Games buses are late) will be able to compete in the final rounds (using the qualifying time/registration information

unless the head coach uses the Improved Performance form, Which will then be utilized for advancements) once the issue with Games services is verified. In such cases, the GOC will make every effort to allow the athlete/team to be assessed and/or get divisioning score to be utilized for placement in the final divisions.

### **Athlete(s)/Team(s) Blatant No Show**

When there is a continued no-show from a delegation, this will be referred to the Head of Delegation and Special Olympics North America. No-Shows due to political reasons will not be tolerated.

### **Competition Staging**

At the Flag Football venue, athletes will report to their assigned field or wait away from the field of play immediately following check in.

### **Uniform Information / Equipment Information**

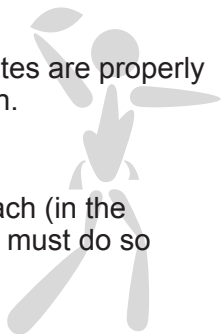
1. All participants must have a playing uniform consisting of matching short (without pockets) and shirt/jersey, with numbers on the front (4" high) and back (6" high), which can be tucked in at the waist.
2. It is highly recommended that each team have two sets of solid colored jerseys/shirts: a light-colored set when designated "home team," and a dark-colored set when designated "visiting team."
3. No jewelry may be worn (rings, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, watches, etc).
4. No blue jeans will be allowed.
5. Players must wear rubber-cleated or flat-soled athletics shoes. Metal cleats, spikes, hiking boots or other footwear and equipment deemed dangerous by officials will not be allowed.
6. An intermediate (youth) size football will be used in all divisions.
7. A protective mouthpiece must be worn at all times.
8. A one piece three flag breakaway belt will be worn during the game.

### **Health and Safety**

It is the coaches' responsibility to make sure athletes are properly hydrated and use adequate amounts of sunscreen.

### **Protests and Appeals**

Only the head coach or designated registered coach (in the absence of the head coach) can file a protest and must do so abiding by the rules of each sport.



The coach must complete the protest form in order for the Sports Specific Jury to consider the protest. The protest must cite each specific violation by specific number from the rules and a clear definition of why the coach feels the rule was not followed. These forms will be available at the Coaches and Officials Desk at the venue. Once the protest is filed, it shall be given to the Coaches and Officials Desk which will then notify the Sports Specific Jury for a ruling. The exact time that the Coaches and Officials Desk receives the protest will be noted on the form. The Sports Specific Jury, which includes the Technical Delegate(s), Sports Commissioner and the Head Official, shall review the protest. Once the Sports Specific Jury has made its decision, the coach can either accept the ruling or appeal the ruling to the Games Jury of Appeals.

The Games Jury of Appeals shall consist of a representative of the GOC, a representative of Special Olympics, Inc. and a member at large. All decisions made by the Games Jury of Appeals shall be final.

### **There are three main guidelines for what is considered a situation of protest:**

1. Misinterpretation of sports rules.
2. Failure of the referee or judge to apply the correct rule to a given situation.
3. Failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation.

Any protest involving the judgment of the referee or judge shall not be given consideration — judgment calls are not to be protested or appealed. Divisioning is not considered a protestable situation.

### **General guidelines are as follows:**

- Coaches will have 30 minutes after the conclusion of a competition session.
- Protest and Appeal Forms will be available at the Coaches and Officials Desk.
- All protests must be submitted in writing and signed by the head coach (or in the absence of the head coach, another designated coach).

## **Awards Ceremonies**

Following the final competitions, awards will be presented to athletes within each division to highlight their accomplishments. In team competition, awards will be given at the conclusion of competition for the entire division a team is in. Official medals will be awarded to first, second and third place finishers while official ribbons will be awarded to fourth through eighth place

finishers. Athletes who are disqualified for reasons other than unsportsmanlike conduct or violations of the divisioning requirements of the sport's rules, or who do not finish an event during finals, shall be presented with a participation ribbon. In the case of a tie, each athlete or team that has achieved the same result shall receive the same placed award. Athletes or teams shall receive the appropriate award for their finish ranking, for example, if there are two athletes that tie for second place, the athlete that finished with the next best time will receive a fourth place ribbon, as that athlete finished with the fourth best time.

If an athlete/team does not finish an event in the assessment and/or divisioning rounds, and the coach does not submit an updated time/score/ability on the Improved Performance Form within the established time, that athlete/team is scratched from that event, will not receive an award of any kind, and is not allowed to compete in the final for that event.

Coaches are asked to ensure that athletes are lead to the designated area. Coaches are not allowed to take part in the awards ceremonies, nor will coaches receive any type of award, as the focus is to highlight the achievement of the athletes.

Athletes must be dressed in either their competition uniforms or delegation issued attire for all awards ceremonies. Athletes that do not follow this procedure will not be allowed to participate in the awards ceremony.

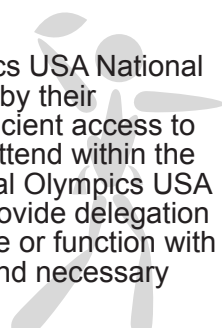
Use of national/state flags by Games participants is prohibited during awards ceremonies. Competition equipment is not allowed on the Awards Podiums.

Delegations that leave the Games prior to any final competition of an athlete or team will not receive an award for the given athlete or team, including participation ribbons. Athletes or teams must compete in the finals in order to receive an award.

## FUNCTIONAL AREA INFORMATION

### **Credentials & Welcome Center Overview**

An essential element of the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games will be to identify and register all persons by their constituent group, thereby ensuring quick and efficient access to all venues and events that they want to or must attend within the framework of the job or function. The 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games Credentialing Department will provide delegation members and those individuals with a defined role or function with user-friendly credentials (photo and non-photo) and necessary venue/event access.



The credentialing operation is organized into three primary areas: credential distribution, Delegation Welcome Center and re-credentialing locations in Lincoln, Neb.

### **Delegation Service Center (DSC) located in the Abel Residence Hall**

All credentials will be sent to the delegations prior to their arrival in Lincoln. We will reissue delegation credentials as needed during the Games at the Delegation Service Center.

### **Re-Credential Site**

During the Games the GOC will operate a re-credentialing center at the Delegation Service Center. The re-credentialing center will be able to produce all types of credentials except day passes and upgrade passes, which will be issued at each competition venue.

### **Venue Day Pass Operations**

Day passes or upgrade passes will be available at all competition venues. Day passes are issued to delegation members who have misplaced or lost their credentials.

Delegation members will be required to complete a Day Pass Request Form. The Day Pass will serve as a temporary credential only and will provide delegation members with access to the sites/ events for the day indicated. The Day Pass Request Forms can be found at the Coaches and Officials Desk.

Upgrade passes will be used to allow access to a zone/location on a temporary basis that individual normally does not have access to.



## Legend on Credential



### Zone Access Codes:

- 0—All Access
- 1—Athlete Area
- 2—Field of Play
- 3—Back of House

### Transportation Access Codes:

- T1—All Delegates
- T2—Family/Volunteers/Guests

### Individual Role Designations:

- SONA – Special Olympics Staff, Regional Managing Director or International Board Member
- GUE – Guest/Staff of SONA, Program or GOC
- OBS – Observer
- FAM – Family member of a Special Olympics athlete

### Delegates:

- Aa – Athlete
- Au – Unified Partner
- Ah – Head of Delegation or Assistant Head of Delegation
- AHc – Head Coach
- Ac – Coach
- As – Additional Staff
- GOC – GOC Staff or GOC Board Member
- VOL – Volunteer
- OFC – Officials and technical delegates
- MDA – All media
- PSP – Public Safety (Law Enforcement, Medical, Fire)

## Delegation Accommodations

Athletes and coaches will be housed within one of the following residence halls on University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus: Abel, Harper, Schramm, Smith, Cather, Pound, or in one of the three wings of the Neihardt Residence Center (Heppner, Love, or Piper).

## Food Services

An essential element of the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games is to provide three healthy and balanced meals to all delegates, officials and staff who will be residing on campus throughout the duration of the event. Volunteers will receive one meal at his/her respective competition venue in exchange for working a full shift. Food Services will strive to provide the nutritional needs necessary for all individuals to compete at the

best of their ability. Hydrating beverages and nutritional snacks will be stocked at various locations throughout every competition venue to ensure all participants can maintain energy levels and stay hydrated even in the heat of summer. Special arrangements will be made for participants who require specialty meals to maintain health (individuals with diabetes, food allergies, etc.).

In order to access on-campus dining facilities, participants must present their credential which will have a barcode. In order to receive a boxed meal at any venue, all participants and volunteers must present their official credential.

Breakfast will be provided only for participants housed on-campus at UNL Dining Centers. The exact dining hall will be based upon the respective housing assignments for the delegation.

**Breakfast Service Hours: 5:30 AM – 8:30 AM**

Lunches for delegates will be served in UNL Dining Centers unless schedules necessitate participants to acquire boxed lunches at the competition venues. Delegations will need to submit a request for a boxed lunch to the Delegation Service Center 48 hours in advance of the day when the boxed lunch will be required. Most officials and all volunteers will be served a boxed lunch at their respective competition venue.

**Lunch Service Hours: 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM**

Dinners will be provided only for participants housed on-campus within respective UNL Dining Centers.

**Dinner Service Hours: 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

## **Family and Guest Lounges**

Family and Guest lounges are located at each competition venue. The lounge areas are places where families and guests can relax, have a snack and visit with other members of the Special Olympics community. Families and guests wearing official Games credentials will be permitted access to any designated family and guest seating areas and access to designated photo areas near the awards stands. Family and Guest Lounges will be open throughout the day at all venues. We hope families and guests will enjoy this opportunity to act as honored spectators and experience the excitement of the Games.

## **Transportation & Parking**

The primary responsibility of the Transportation & Parking Department is to provide well-organized, safe and efficient transportation services that will enable all delegates to reach accommodations, travel throughout the duration of the Games to

official venues and activities, and understand the schedule of the various modes of transportation. Below are the key responsibilities and duties of the Transportation & Parking Department. This list is subject to change and will be revised as necessary:

### **Transportation Accessibility**

Accessibility to Games transportation will only be offered credentialed participants. All transportation schedules are subject to change as influenced by competition schedules.

### **Mabel Lee Fields (Flag Football)**

Walking is encouraged to this venue. Distance from the residence halls ranges from 2-5 city blocks. The Transportation system is designed to have all athletes/coaches to the venue 45 minutes before competition starts.

For those who cannot physically walk the distance, there will be a campus bus that will travel between the campus bus pickup location to the Powerlifting location, Track and Field/Bocce/Rhythmic Gymnastics location and the Aquatics venue. To access the campus shuttle, participants will need to walk to the pickup zone. Others participants may use this shuttle if needed, but priority will be given to those with disabilities that prevent them from being able to walk.

### **Campus Bus Stop Location:**

- On 16<sup>th</sup> St - between "W" St and Vine St – **Main Load Zone**
- On 12<sup>th</sup> St and "R" St / Kimball Hall Powerlifting - Load Zone  
Devaney Sports Complex – Aquatics - Load Zone
- On 14<sup>th</sup> St & "W" St / Track and Field, Bocce and Rhythmic Gymnastics - Load Zone

### **The Campus Shuttle Information:**

Date: Sunday, July 18 - Friday July 23, 2010  
Hours of Operation: 6:45 AM - 6:00 PM  
Frequency: Approximately every 10-15 minutes

### **Participants who utilize wheelchairs**

All athletes who utilize motorized wheelchairs are eligible for a wheelchair accessible vehicle to access all USA National Games sponsored events. Access to this transportation option must be requested at least 24 hours in advance of the service.

Credentialed delegates utilizing a collapsible wheelchair that can board a bus without assistance, are requested to use the provided Campus Bus Shuttle. Other delegates that cannot walk the 2-3 blocks to the bus stop can also request usage of a special

transport 24 hours in advance of the service.

## **Airport Bus System**

This system provides service for all credentialed delegates to and from the Cessna Air lift, Lincoln Municipal Airport and the Omaha Municipal Airport.

- Cessna Airlift (Danley Building)

On July 17, 2010, shuttle buses will transport delegates to their assigned accommodation sites/residence halls upon arrival. The projected service hours for this service are: 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

On July 24, 2010, shuttle buses will transport delegates to the appropriate airport as departure itineraries indicate.

Luggage will be transported along with the delegates (either through box trucks or existing shuttles).

- Lincoln and Omaha Municipal Airports

On July 17, shuttle service will be provided from these two airports to the delegation's accommodation site / residence hall. This service will be available for credentialed delegate only.

Luggage will be transported along with the delegates (either through box trucks or existing shuttles).

On July 24, 2010, shuttle buses will transport delegates to the appropriate airport as departure itineraries indicate.

## **Accommodation to Venue Shuttle System**

The Accommodations Venue Shuttle System provides shuttle service for all official credentialed delegates for the Games. This system will link the University of Nebraska campus bus stop with the off-campus competition venues. Walking will be the primary transportation for all campus venues.

Dates of Operation: Sunday, July 18  
Hours of Operation: 6:15 AM – 12:30 PM

Dates of Operation: Monday, July 19 – Thursday, July 22  
Hours of Operation: 6:45 AM – 6:30 PM

Dates of Operation: Friday July 23, 2010  
Hours of Operation: 6:45 AM – 3:30 PM

Note: Actual hours will vary depending on competition and event schedules.

## **Venue to Venue Shuttle**

The venue to venue shuttle service will be available for the off-campus venues for all official credentialed delegates. This service will be provided upon request and on a first come / first serve basis. This is offered on an extremely limited basis, as these vehicles are limited with capacity and availability. Walking will be the primary mode of transportation for all on-campus venues.

## **Special Events Shuttle System (Ceremonies and Special Olympics Town)**

This shuttle system will provide service for all officially credentialed delegates and on UNL campus and the downtown area. Families will also have access to this system on a limited basis, as delegates will have primary access to this service.

The service will provide service from the University and downtown Lincoln to Special Olympics Town, which is located at the Pershing Auditorium. Walking is encouraged to and from Special Olympics Town from the University and from downtown Lincoln, as it is approximately 15-30 minute walk, depending upon the accommodation site.

This service can also be used for credentialed family members to access Opening and Closing Ceremonies at the Devaney Sports Center. This service is being provided by The City of Lincoln's Star Tran bus system and is 100% wheelchair accessible.

Dates of Operation: Monday, July 19 – Friday, July 23  
Hours of Operation: 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM (service every 20-25 minutes)  
5:30 PM - 10:30 PM (service every 10-15 minutes)

Locations: 16<sup>th</sup> St, between "W" St and Vine St (Campus)  
NOTE: 9:30 AM – 10:30 PM

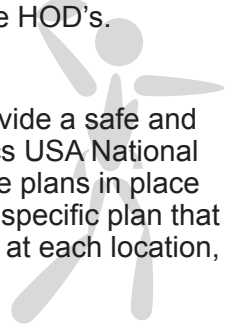
Devaney Sports Complex (Campus)  
NOTE: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

## **Delegation Parking Check**

Parking lots have been secured for delegation parking on campus close to the residence halls. Parking passes will be needed for these parking spaces and will be distributed to the HOD's.

## **Public Safety & Security**

The goal of the Public Safety Committee is to provide a safe and secure environment for the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games. There are extensive emergency response plans in place for the duration of the Games. Each venue has a specific plan that will be coordinated through the Security Manager at each location, and will be communicated as needed.



## **Security**

There will be security zones at each venue. Security volunteers will be wearing a designated uniform. Uniformed law enforcement officers will also be on duty.

## **Zone Access**

Security staff will be stationed to check credentials for access to any specific area. It is important that delegates wear their credentials at all times. If delegates' credentials are lost or stolen, contact the Head of Delegation.

## **Safety**

Coaches and Heads of Delegation are responsible for knowing the location of their delegation members. If someone is missing, contact the law enforcement officer or security volunteer immediately. Report all suspicious activity to the law enforcement officer or security volunteer immediately.

## **Opening & Closing Ceremonies**

To maintain a safe and secure environment, Event Staff will be screening all bags and packages for everyone attending any part of the ceremonies.

## **University of Nebraska Safety Policy**

The University Board of Regents and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are committed to the personal safety of all persons on the University Campus. This commitment to safety includes, but is not limited to special outdoor Code Blue Emergency Phones, a full service Police Department and Operator Services, both available 24 hours a day as well as increased lighting. Safety is also a community issue that can be addressed through the active participation of every member of the UNL Community. Everyone is encouraged to take appropriate precautions to help UNL meet the goal of increased safety for everyone.

## **UNL Police Emergency and Non-Emergency 402.472.2222**

## **Communication for Severe Weather**

Lancaster County Emergency Management will be monitoring weather during the Games. This Management Team will be in constant communication with the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) through various means of communication devices. If any severe weather is in the area or in the forecast, the Lancaster County Emergency Management will notify the GOC and communications will be disseminated appropriately to the delegations.

## Medical

Medical services will be provided for each of the delegation members, officials, staff and volunteers of the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games. During all competition and other events, there will be medical response teams on duty. There will also be medical resources available during the entire stay. Your safety is our primary concern. Please feel free to ask the medical staff if you have any questions.

There will be medical resource management staff available 24 hours a day at the residence halls. If there is an issue while trying to contact the medical personnel, please call 9-1-1 for emergencies.

## Medical Records

A copy of each delegate's medical records should be kept by the coaches and Head of Delegation. This will help the medical team provide the most appropriate and timely care. The records should include, at a minimum:

- Athlete Medical Information
- Athlete Release

Medical encounter forms will be maintained for all delegates seeking medical attention. It is possible that an additional Incident Report will be completed.

## Medications

It is expected that each delegate will have a sufficient supply of their medications for their entire stay (it is also recommended to bring 2-3 days of extra medication in the case of unforeseen delays). It is helpful to have a medication list in English for each delegate. The medication list should include:

- Name of medication in English
- Dosage and route (injection, oral)
- Administration time
- Reason for medication

Adjust the times for medication based on the time zone changes. The delegate's medication routine should remain the same. Whether they take their own medication or have a parent, guardian or other person assist them, the goal is to keep the same routine.

If assistance is needed for administration of medication, please contact the Medical personnel in the dorms (in the event that issues arise in the ability to contact the medical personnel, please call 9-1-1 for emergencies).

## **Eyeglasses**

Delegates are encouraged to bring a second pair in case of breakage or loss. A copy of the prescription is also recommended.

## **Dentures**

Dentures should have the owner's information inscribed.

## **Medical Coverage:**

### **Residence Halls**

If you have a life-threatening emergency while in the residence halls, dial 911 or the medical # for the residence halls, which will be distributed to the HOD's upon arrival, and will be posted in the residence halls. Be sure to tell the dispatcher your residence hall, room #, delegation and individual name that is experiencing the issue.

### **Venue**

There will be medical staff on duty during all competition and non-competition events. There will be responders near the field of play to provide rapid assessment and intervention. A venue medical area will be staffed during all competition hours.

There will be medical coverage during all non-competition events, dining halls and special events. Key medical staff will be identified by designated medical attire.

### **Medical Centers (Hospitals) and Urgent Care Facilities**

Area hospitals will provide medical care. Every attempt will be made to bill the correct insurance provider. It is important that proper identification is provided to the hospital.

### **Medical Centers**

- Bryan LGH Medical Center East - 1600 S.48<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE
- Bryan LGH Medical Center West - 2300 S. 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE
- St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center - 555 S. 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE

### **Urgent Care Facilities**

- Express Care Clinic - 2662 Cornhusker Highway, Lincoln, NE
- Express Care Clinic – 2525 Pine Lake Road, Lincoln, NE
- Urgent Care at Lifepoint 7501 S. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE
- Urgent Care Clinic of Lincoln – 4210 Pioneer Woods Drive, #A, Lincoln, NE
- Linc Care Urgent Care Centers – 3910 Village Drive, Lincoln, NE
- Linc Care Urgent Care Centers – 5000 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE
- Linc Care Urgent Care Centers – 1601 N. 86<sup>th</sup> Street 200, Lincoln, NE

## **Media Policy**

The value of positive media coverage for the Special Olympics



Movement and the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games cannot be underestimated. We expect media from all over the United States working in different mediums – print, photography, broadcast, web and video. The Special Olympics movement is especially excited to have the USA National Games Documentary Team on-site for the Games, whose controlled access to the athletes and back of house areas allows us to capture more action than the mainstream media.

Coaches are always a valuable resource to the media in giving insight to the athletes, the sport and the movement. Each competition venue will be fully staffed with a media and press operations team, lead by a Venue Press Chief, to assist the media in doing their work. At times, the Venue Press Chief or their representative may be asked to facilitate a media interview with a coach or athlete, and will facilitate the place, time and location of the interview. Any coach that is asked for an interview should limit their content to their area of expertise. Questions outside coaching areas of expertise should be directed to the on-site Venue Press Chief. It is up to the discretion of the coach to conduct interviews either on their own, or with the support of the Press Operations team member, should they feel uncomfortable being left alone with a member of the media. Any and all media concerns should be raised directly with the on-site Venue Press Chief.

## **Merchandise**

Ideal Images will be selling apparel and other items during the week of the Games. You will be able to find them at these locations:

- Opening and Closing Ceremony
- Smith Hall Conference Room
- Special Olympics Town
- Abbott Sports Complex

## **CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Opening Ceremony**

The Opening Ceremony will be held at the Devaney Sports Center on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus on Sunday, July 18, 2010 from 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM. The ceremony will be entertaining to all in attendance while keeping the athletes in mind. Presenting and performing will be well-known celebrities and entertainers as well as local performers and talent.

Upon arrival at the Devaney Sports Center, delegations will be

escorted into the indoor track area. Delegations will be staged for the Parade of Athletes in alphabetical order. There will be multiple entrances from which the parade will enter the Devaney Sports Center. The GOC anticipates the Parade of Athletes into the Devaney Sports Center to begin approximately 15 minutes after the beginning of the ceremony.

Upon the end of the Opening Ceremony, delegations will be escorted back to their housing facilities on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

## **Closing Ceremony**

The Closing Ceremony will also take place at Devaney Sports Center on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus, and will occur Friday, July 23rd from 7:30 PM – 10:00 PM. For the first time ever, the Closing Ceremony will be paired with a Youth Rally and will celebrate a week of athletic achievements and will launch a legacy of commitment to youth service and action moving forward. An estimated 5,000 youth, with and without intellectual disabilities, will join the Closing Ceremony audience for an inspiring and motivational event that will be a call to action for the youth of Nebraska and across the United States to take the experience of the USA National Games forward as a new commitment to respect, dignity and acceptance for all. The Closing Ceremony is the final opportunity to salute the athletes and reflect on the week's events.

## **Clinics and Demos**

The USA National Games will provide clinics and demonstrations at most of the competition venues and Special Olympics Town. The activities will provide athletes, coaches and spectators the opportunity to participate in instructional clinics and will stimulate interest in new sports. A schedule, description of each activity, and roster of persons participating in the clinic or demonstration will be developed and distributed at the head coaches meeting.

## **Special Olympics Town**

*Featuring the Sports Experience, Fan Fest & Healthy Athletes*

This is the entertainment center of the Games! It is located in downtown Lincoln at the Pershing Auditorium. All community, athletes, delegates, officials, families and coaches are invited to participate in this event. The goal of Special Olympics Town

is to bring the Special Olympics athletes, delegates and the community of Nebraska together for several days and evenings of entertainment, fun and education.

### **The Sports Experience**

The Sports Experience is an initiative that allows guests attending the USA National Games to experience the talents and personalities of Special Olympics Athletes by providing an interactive space for guests to learn more about Special Olympics and play various sports with the athletes. The Sports Experience will be in the arena of Pershing.

**Monday, July 19 – Thursday, July 22**      **10:00 AM – 8:00 PM**  
**Friday, July 23**      **10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

### **Fan Fest**

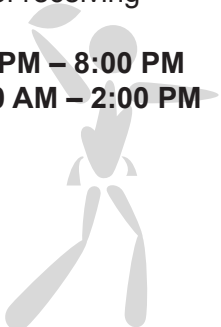
The Fan Fest will have a unique atmosphere all of its own! Fan Fest will be held on the streets outside Pershing Auditorium (in front of the Nebraska State Capitol Building) and will provide live entertainment, a family friendly atmosphere, crafts, exhibits and for those that would like to take home a souvenir, the largest merchandise tent of the Games which will be filled with many treasures to purchase during the week. The festival will also provide our valued sponsors an opportunity to showcase their products and services to our audience.

**Monday, July 19 – Thursday, July 22**      **10:00 AM – 11:00 PM**

### **Healthy Athletes**

Healthy Athletes will be in the lower level of Pershing Auditorium and is established to help athletes improve their training and competition by focusing on overall health and fitness. This is achieved through basic health screenings, provision of preventative and treatment services, educational information and referrals for follow-up care. Athletes have enhanced sports experiences and improved well-being as a result of receiving critical health services.

**Monday, July 19 – Thursday, July 22**      **2:00 PM – 8:00 PM**  
**Friday, July 23**      **10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**





20

10



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