MANDATORY SCREENING
- All individuals (18 and over) responsible for athletes overnight, or traveling with an agency in any capacity, must clear a background screening before attending State Games.
- No person under the age of 18 will be screened. If an individual is not 18 years of age, is considered a coach or assistant coach, he or she will be required to fill out a Volunteer Coach and Profile Form. It must be noted at the top of the form “MINOR”. A minor’s SS# is not required on the form.
- If the “minor” is a Unified Partner, he or she must have a completed Partners Form on file with Special Olympics Georgia by the eligibility deadline.
- Any “minor” attending games – as a coach, assistant coach, or Unified Partner -- MAY NOT be responsible for athletes overnight. An individual, over the age of 18, that has a clear background screening before attending State Games, must be responsible for the athletes overnight in the hotel / dorm rooms.

PROHIBITION ON CHARGING FEES
- Article 7, Section 7.02 of the Special Olympics, Inc. General Rules states the following concerning the charging of fees for athletes or their families:
  - “No Accredited Program may require Special Olympics athletes or their families to pay or promise to pay any type of admission, registration, training, participation, or competition fee, or any other fee or charge of any type as a condition for admission to any Special Olympics event of activity, or as a fee for the athletes’ participation in any Special Olympics or competition (collectively, “Prohibited Fees”).

Curfew & Supervision of Athletes
- Athletes & Coaches should be in rooms & quiet by curfew (11:00 pm). Assistant Coaches / Coaches / Chaperones are responsible for the conduct of their athletes AT ALL TIMES. Remind your athletes that there are other paying customers in the hotels. Any athlete(s) found unsupervised, or who are engaged in disruptive behavior can be disqualified from the Games. Please ensure the safety of your athletes and help provide an enjoyable weekend by being responsible for their whereabouts.

Accident Insurance
- Athletes, Coaches, and Assistant Coaches that are part of the official delegation are covered by accident insurance while attending the Games. Coverage is secondary to any primary coverage the individual has. If the individual has no coverage, the insurance becomes the primary coverage up to $5,000. This applies ONLY to accidents (ear aches, stomach aches, etc. are not covered).
- Accident Insurance forms can be obtained from the Nerve Center.

Alcohol, Illegal Drugs
- Violation of these regulations will be cause for immediate expulsion from the Games.
- The possession or use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs by athletes, coaches, asst. coaches, and Head of Delegations is not permitted during the Games weekend.

NO Swimming Policy
- Please make sure that your coaches and assistant coaches enforce the policy of NO recreational swimming at Special Olympics Events. This includes pools, spas, hot tubs, beaches, lakes, etc.
STATE GAMES LATE GAMES PAPERWORK POLICY
***REMEMBER: NO faxed paperwork will be accepted!!

- All State Games Paperwork is due in the State Office no later than 4:00pm on the deadline date and must have been entered into GMS using Web Registration. All athletes, unified partners, and coaches must have been entered through Web Registration.
- All delegations must participate in GMS Web Registration. Failing to participate will result in a $250 fee.
- Paperwork received in the State Office up to 3 days after the deadline will be accepted as follows:
  - For paperwork that is received after the deadline date or up to 3 days after the deadline date, the agency will be assessed a $250 late fee.
  - After 3 days, NO GAMES PAPERWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- Agencies failing to pay the $250 late assessment fee by the Problem Sheet deadline date for State Games will be unable to attend the State Games.

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GET IN ALL PAPERWORK BY THE DEADLINE FOR ALL STATE GAMES.

*** PLEASE NOTE: THIS POLICY DOES NOT APPLY TO THE ELIGIBILITY DATE FOR MEDICAL FORMS AND PARTNER FORMS. THESE FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN BY THE ELIGIBILITY DEADLINE FOR ALL STATE GAMES.***

SOGA Hotel/Dorm/Venue Emergency Plan
- In the case of an emergency please respond accordingly.
- In the case of a fire/false alarm please make sure your entire delegation calmly vacates the building and that they are all accounted for. Remember to take your keys and your housing list. (The Head of Delegation should make a final sweep of the housing/building counting your athletes/coaches and make sure you have everyone when exiting or re-entering)
- In the case of bad weather (tornado, flooding) please make sure your entire delegation is in a secure and safe environment until the weather has cleared. Make sure that each athlete/coach in your delegation is accounted for after the weather has cleared. Remember to take your keys.
- In the case of a missing member of your delegation (athlete, coach, family member) please contact the Nerve Center/SOGA Staff as soon as possible. Please calmly provide a detailed description of the situation and adhere to the SOGA Crisis Plan regarding the dissemination of information.
- The Nerve Center phone number can be found in your Information Guide (Coaches Handbook) and on your Credentials.

AGENCIES FAILING TO REPORT SCRATCHES AT STATE GAMES
- It is the responsibility of the Head of Delegation for each agency to report any scratches at the time of housing registration.
- Problems in the past with agencies not scratching athletes / partners / coaches at the time of housing registration in order to spread others out in the allotted rooms for housing have been noted by athletes or partners not participating in their events.
- If your agency does not report scratches at the time of housing registration and athletes or partners do not show up for their events, Special Olympics Georgia will re-calculate your housing numbers.
- If it is found that you should have had fewer rooms than given, you will be assessed a per room, per night charge which will need to be paid to SOGA immediately. Further assessment of the situation could result in non-participation for the next State Games.

Substitution Policy
- Substitutions are not to be made for individual sports after the substitution/problem sheet deadline.
- All team sports substitutions must be made by, or at, the time of registration for state games.
- NO substitutions are allowed after registration is over for state games.
Commercial Messages on Athlete Uniforms and Competition Numbers
In order to avoid commercial exploitation of persons with intellectual disabilities at World, Regional or Multi-Program level Games, no uniforms, and no bibs or other signs bearing competition numbers, which are worn by Special Olympics athletes while competing or during any opening, closing, or award ceremonies of any Games may be emblazoned with commercial names or commercial messages. The only commercial markings which may be displayed on athletes' and coaches uniforms during Games competitions and opening and closing ceremonies are the normal commercial markings of the manufacturer. For purposes of this Section 5.08(a), "normal commercial markings" are limited to the following:
(1) On larger clothing items, such as shirts, jackets, pants, jerseys, and sweatshirts, one logo or commercial name per clothing item is permissible, if that name or logo display does not exceed an area of six square inches or 38.7 square centimeters (such as a display measuring 2" x 3" or 5.08 cm x 7.62 cm);
(2) On small clothing items, such as caps, socks, hats, gloves and belts, one logo or commercial name per clothing item is permissible, if that name or display does not exceed an area of three square inches or 19.35 square centimeters; and
(3) On athletic shoes, no logos or commercial names are permissible except for names or logos which are included by the manufacturer on athletic shoes which are sold to the general public.

Commercial Markings on Other Athlete Apparel or Accessories
Special Olympics athletes who are not engaged in competition or in opening/closing ceremonies may wear, carry or use at Games venues other than the sites of competition (such as at training or practice sessions) clothing and/or non-apparel items which are not part of their sports equipment (such as tote bags), which contain small and attractively designed identifications of corporate or organizational sponsors.

5.08 (C)

Displays of Commercial Messages by Volunteers
Volunteers may wear clothing which bears small and attractively designed names or logos identifying corporate or organizational sponsors while attending Games competitions, so long as those displays do not exceed an area of six square inches or its metric equivalent.

Displays of Commercial Messages by Sports Officials
Sports officials may not wear, carry or use clothing or other apparel items which contain the names or logos of corporate or organizational sponsors (except for the normal commercial markings permitted under subsection (a) above) during the opening or closing ceremonies of any Games, at the sites of any Games competition or demonstration, or while officiating at any Games competition or demonstration. At other times, or at Games venues other than the sites of opening and closing ceremonies, competitions or demonstrations (such as at the sites of training and practice sessions), officials may wear, carry or use clothing or other items which contain sponsors' names or logos if those displays comply with those permitted to be displayed by volunteers under Section 5.08(c).
Attention Heads of Delegations and Coaches

Coaches Meeting Information for State Games

Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) has made the decision to change the format in which Coaches Meetings at State Games are conducted. Instead of in-person meetings on Friday’s after the completion of the Opening Ceremony, SOGA will be implementing Go To Meeting webinar formatted Coaches Meetings during the week leading up to the State Event. These virtual Coaches Meetings will be sport specific meetings and will take place individually by sports venues at different times prior to the weekend of the State Event. Specific dates and times will be sent to all Heads of Delegations and Coaches after the Problem Sheet Deadline for each State Event.

SOGA has inserted documents within the State Games Paperwork packet where we are asking for all names and email addresses for certified Coaches that are going to be a registered delegate at Games, per sport. This way we can make sure we have all the Coaches information to be able to email the Coaches Meeting information to them. The meetings will be web based, so Coaches will need to be on a computer in order to access and view the meeting and the information being discussed.

All participants attending the Coaches Meetings will be muted during the call, so that it will be clear of background noise. There is a chat section within the webinar, where Coaches can type in questions that we will be able to answer during and at the end of the meeting. The Coaches Meetings will also be recorded, in which after the conclusion of each Coaches Meeting, we will email the recording out to all participants to reference or forward to others that were unable to attend.

SOGA feels that this is a positive direction we are moving to when it comes to the Coaches Meetings. The information that is discussed will be more beneficial to all because it will take place prior to competition on Friday. It will also allow for Coaches to be with their delegation after the Opening Ceremony and during the Athlete Dance.

Thank you for all you do for SOGA and the Athletes!

David Crawford
Chief Sports & Program Officer, Special Olympics Georgia
2020 State Fall Games – Participant Code of Conduct

In consideration of participating in the Special Olympics Georgia 2020 State Fall Games, I acknowledge & agree to the following:

☐ I confirm that I do not have symptoms of COVID-19 and have not been in contact with anyone that has tested positive for COVID-19 symptoms in past 14 days (cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell)

☐ If I have COVID-19 symptoms, I will stay at home and NOT go to any activities until 7 days after all of my symptoms are over. If I am exposed to COVID-19 and have no symptoms, I can return 14 days after exposure.

☐ If I get or have had COVID, I will not go to any in-person Special Olympics Georgia events until 7 days after my symptoms end. I will go to my doctor and get written clearance before returning to any sport or fitness activities.

☐ I will have my temperature checked prior to leaving home to attend the State Fall Games

☐ I will have my temperature checked upon arrival at Freedom Park in Valdosta, Georgia. If a fever exists, I will immediately depart to go home, this will include the entire delegation.

☐ Special Olympics Georgia provided me the education on Special Olympics rules for COVID-19 and who is at high risk.

☐ I know that if I have a high-risk condition, I have more risk that I could get sick or die from COVID-19. If I have a high-risk condition, I should not go to Special Olympics Georgia events in person, until there is little or no Coronavirus in my community.

☐ I will keep at least 6 feet from all participants at all times. This includes bathrooms, delegation sitting area during bocce competition, picking up food or snacks, Olympic Town, and seating during Opening Ceremony. I will not engage in hugging, hand shaking, or high fives.

☐ I will wear a mask and gloves at all times while at Special Olympics Georgia activities. I may or not have to wear it during active exercise, warm ups, or during Bocce competition.

☐ I will wash my hands for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer before any activities. I will wash my hands any time I sneeze, cough, go to the bathroom or get my hands dirty.

☐ I will avoid touching my face. I will cover my mouth when I cough or sneeze and immediately wash my hands after.

☐ I will not share drinking bottles or towels with other people.

☐ I understand that no spectators are allowed. This includes, parents, guardians, family, friends, or anyone planning to attend to watch competition, that is not a registered delegate.

☐ I will only share equipment when instructed to. If equipment must be shared, I will only touch the equipment if it is disinfected first. If equipment must be shared, the appropriate cleaning supplies must be used to wipe down before the next athlete uses for competition or warmups.

☐ I agree to contactless pickups. Special Olympics Georgia will provide certain materials, HOD packets, t-shirts, snacks, water, etc. and understand that there will be no direct contact in picking up these items.

☐ I will only enter, leave, or move around the check-in and competition areas that my agency is assigned. I will continue practicing social distancing while in these areas.

☐ I will abide by Special Olympics Georgia’s housing policy. Only the same gender will be allowed in each room. 1 person assigned to a king room, and 2 persons assigned to a double/double or king with pullout. I will abide by the 10pm curfew.
☐ I understand that if I do not follow all of these rules, I may not be allowed to participate in Special Olympics Georgia activities during this time.
☐ I understand that any medical services needed for sickness or illness while participating at any Special Olympics Georgia event will not be covered by the Special Olympics Georgia insurance carrier, but instead will be covered by the insurance provider of the individual participant.

I hereby fully understand and accept responsibility and will adhere to all policies set forth by Special Olympics Georgia.

Participant Name (Printed) ____________________________________________

Participant Signature: ___________________________ Date: ____________________

Participant Role (circle one): Athlete Coach Volunteer Unified Partner

Parent/Guardian Signature: (required if under 18 years old or has a legal guardian)
By signing, I agree to this form on my own behalf and on behalf of the Participant.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature: ___________________________ Date: ____________________
Fact Sheet: Who is at High-Risk for COVID-19

Who is at higher risk of COVID-19?
COVID-19 is a new disease and information is changing on who is more likely to get COVID-19 and who is will have more complications. Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities may be at higher risk of severe illness resulting in death from COVID-19.

Current clinical guidance and information from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) lists those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 as:

- People 65 years and older. Risk increases with age.
- People who live in a nursing home or licensed long-term care facilities

Regardless of age, individuals with underlying conditions, such as the following, are or maybe at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19:

- People with chronic lung disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions (including heart failure, coronary artery disease, congenital heart disease, cardiomyopathy, hypertension)
- People who are immunocompromised
  - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
- People with obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher). To calculate BMI, refer to:
- People with diabetes (Type 1 and 2)
- People with chronic kidney disease
- People with liver disease
- People with dementia

The list may change as evidence is learned. Please review the latest list of conditions that put individuals at increased risk available at the CDC website (https://bit.ly/2VEJcSK)

If you are at a high risk, you may be putting yourself at risk when you return to activities with Special Olympics. But, you may also put your family and your teammates at risk. If you have these conditions, you should not return to Special Olympics in person activities until Phase 3.

If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you should consult with a healthcare professional for written medical clearance before returning to Special Olympics in person activities as serious cardiac, respiratory, and neurological issues may develop as a result of COVID-19.
SOGA's Guide for a Safe Time

Stay home if you feel sick

Wear your mask AT ALL TIMES!

Don't touch eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands

Cover your sneezes and coughs

Wash your hands frequently

Social Distance 6 Feet

No hugs or high-fives

Thank you!
STATE GAMES FEES REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

This reimbursement policy applies to registration for all State level competitions. While we wish we could reimburse all money your agency has paid, we incur certain costs for those of you registered for the competition, regardless of whether you attend, including:

➢ First night hotel expenses for your agency’s rooms
➢ Food preparation / expenses for meals
➢ Cost of credentials and printed materials for your agency

We are making every effort to assist your agency as much as possible when unexpected situations arise. We know how precious every dollar is to your program. If you have any questions, please contact the SOGA State Office or call your Sports & Program Manager’s Office.

IF SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA CANCELS A COMPETITION:
If SOGA cancels a State competition, by Thursday before the competition, due to dangerous weather conditions or other events beyond our control, athlete and coach assessment fees for that competition will be refunded. If SOGA cancels a State competition after competition begins, no fees will be refunded.

IF AN ENTIRE AGENCY SCRATCHES BEFORE A COMPETITION:
If an entire agency must scratch before a competition, SOGA will refund 40% of the registration fees, if the agency scratches by the problem sheet deadline date for the competition. This refund policy applies only if the ENTIRE agency scratches, not just a team or a few members of your delegation. If an agency must scratch after the problem sheet deadline, no money will be refunded.

STATE GAMES FEES SHEET:
If Games Fees are not paid in full by the problem sheet deadline, the entire agency will be scratched from games. If an agency scratches anyone from their agency after the games paperwork is due, no money will be reimbursed. In the case where fees are not paid by the paperwork deadline, the original fees (fees for the original number of agency members on paperwork) are still to be paid by the problem sheet deadline. In other words, if paperwork is turned in with no fees and an agency has scratches before fees are paid, original payment obligation cannot be decreased due to scratches. NO PARTIAL PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
To: Special Olympics Georgia Agencies and Volunteers

Thank you for your continued support of the athletes involved in the Special Olympics Georgia program, we appreciate your time and dedication.

Special Olympics Georgia has adopted some changes to our background screening policy for Class A Volunteers (See below list/descriptions of Class A Volunteers).

**Our background screening policy is as follows:**

All Class A volunteers will need to have a current, clear background screening on file with the Special Olympics Georgia state office. From the date of completion of the screening, each background screening will be valid for 3 years. After 3 years, the current background screening will cease to be valid and a new background screening will be required before said volunteer can continue in any Class A volunteer position or activity with Special Olympics Georgia. All background screenings completed before December 31, 2014 will be considered current until December 31, 2017, at which time a new screening will need to be procured.

The only background screenings that will be accepted by Special Olympics Georgia, in order to be considered a Class A volunteer, are those screenings procured from an approved vendor through Special Olympics Georgia. Currently, the only approved vendor is Verified Volunteers, Inc.

Effective as of January 1, 2015, Special Olympics Georgia will no longer cover the entire cost of a Class A volunteer’s background screening. The entire cost of one background screening through Verified Volunteers, Inc. is $6.00. Special Olympics Georgia will pay $3.00 of every background screening for Class A volunteers. We will require the other $3.00 be paid by the Class A volunteer requiring the background screening. This cost will be required of the Class A volunteer at the time the background screening is ordered from Verified Volunteers, Inc. Ordering of the background screening will be completed by the Class A volunteer on the Verified Volunteer, Inc. website. Special Olympics Georgia will provide the Class A volunteer with the website link via an e-mail invite from Verified Volunteers, Inc. Before said volunteer will be allowed to submit his/her order online, the $3.00 payment will be required. The web link provided in the e-mail invite must be utilized in order for the background screening to be linked with Special Olympics Georgia’s account.

Once a background screening has been reviewed by Verified Volunteers, Inc., a report will be provided automatically to the Class A volunteer and to Special Olympics Georgia via the secure online account through Verified Volunteers, Inc.

Volunteer positions that are required to be Class A status are as follows:

- Local Coordinators
- Area Management Team members
- Local Management Team members
- Certified coaches
- State Games, Games Organizing Committee Members
- Bus drivers, nurses, chaperones, unified partners and any other volunteer attending a State Competition with a Special Olympics Georgia delegation.

If you have additional questions, please email Hannah Creasey:  
Hannah.Creasey@specialolympicsga.org
POLICY CONCERNING COACHES / CHAPERONES / NURSES / BUS DRIVERS / ETC

♦ This policy applies to all State Games except for the Horse Show.
♦ All coaches / chaperones / nurses / bus drivers / etc. who are a part of an agency’s official delegation that exceed the quota listed below, will be assessed a fee of $25.00 per person to attend State Games.
♦ The official agency delegation will consist of athletes / partners, plus the following allotment of coaches / chaperones / bus drivers / nurses / etc.

♦ TEAMS –
  3 coaches per team allotted for floor hockey teams, softball teams, basketball teams, volleyball teams, flag football teams and soccer teams.

  1 coach per team allotted for bowling and bocce.

♦ INDIVIDUAL SPORTS –
  1 coach per 3 athletes allotted.

♦ WHEELCHAIR & LEVEL A ATHLETES
  1 coach per 1 athlete allotted.

♦ ADDITIONAL –
  1 additional coach will be added to your allotment to be utilized as necessary by your agency.

ALL additional coaches / chaperones / nurses / bus drivers, not in the above allotment, will be assessed a fee of $25.00 (covers meals, credentials, processing expenses and insurance) per person to attend State Games. Agencies ARE responsible for securing additional housing for these additional persons. SOGA will no longer provide additional housing for any agency.

HOTEL HOUSING: FOR 2020 FALL GAMES ONLY - Special Olympics Georgia houses 2 persons per room in a Double / Double or King with pullout sofa and 1 person per room in a King.

DORM HOUSING: Special Olympics Georgia houses 1 person per bed, up to 4 persons per room.
# CHEAT SHEET FOR SPORTS NUMBERS
FOR STATE GAMES ATTENDANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM SPORT</th>
<th># PLAYERS PER TEAM</th>
<th># COACHES PER TEAM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bocce</td>
<td>4 (Unified) or 4 (Traditional)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball (3vs.3)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor Hockey</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>12 (Traditional)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 (Modified)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 (Unified)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flag Football</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ALL OTHER SPORTS INCLUDING SKILLS FOR TEAM SPORTS**

- 3 Athletes / 1 Coach

**LEVEL A / WHEELCHAIR**

- 1 Athlete / 1 Coach

**ADDITIONAL COACH / CHAPERONE**

- 1 Additional Coach allowed per delegation (floating coach, nurse, bus driver, etc.)

**NOTE:** All athletes must be trained by a certified coach. The certified coach’s name must appear on the roster form sent in with the State Games paperwork.
INDIVIDUAL ROLES & REQUIREMENTS AT STATE GAMES

➢ **Athlete** = A Special Olympics Athlete competing in the Games. All Athletes MUST have an active Doctor signed medical form on file with SOGA by the eligibility/paperwork deadline in order to compete at any State Event. The medical expiration date (expires every three years) must not expire before or during the date of the State Event.

➢ **Unified Partner** = A Unified Partner, with a complete Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile form on file, competing in the Games. Any Unified Partner that is 18 years of age or older must be screened by Special Olympics Georgia via the Verified Volunteers website and complete the Online Protective Behaviors Course. Unified Partners participating in the Games are not to be held responsible or liable for the Athletes. The ultimate responsibility and liability belongs to the Head of Delegation for all Athletes and Unified Partners.

➢ **Head of Delegation** = Individual that has completed the Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile form, screened by Special Olympics Georgia via the Verified Volunteers website, completed the Online Protective Behaviors Course, signed and submitted the Coach Code of Conduct form and completed the Concussion Training Online Course. The Head of Delegation is responsible for all Athletes and Unified Partners competing in the Games.

➢ **Coach(es)** = Individual responsible for team or individual sports athletes competing in the Games that has completed the Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile form, screened by Special Olympics Georgia via the Verified Volunteers website, completed the Online Protective Behaviors Course, signed and submitted the Coach Code of Conduct form and completed the Concussion Training Online Course.

➢ **Chaperone(s) & Extra people not in quota** = Individual responsible for athletes competing in the Games that has completed the Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile form, screened by Special Olympics Georgia via the Verified Volunteers website, completed the Online Protective Behaviors Course, signed and submitted the Coach Code of Conduct form and completed the Concussion Training Online Course.

➢ **Horse Handlers / Side Walkers** = Individual responsible for assisting athletes competing in the Games and has completed the Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile form. Any Horse Handler or Side Walker that is 18 years of age or older must be screened by Special Olympics Georgia via the Verified Volunteers website, complete the Online Protective Behaviors Course, and complete the Concussion Training Online Course.

➢ **Bus or Van Driver** = Individual responsible for transporting the delegation during the Games. Any Bus or Van Driver that is 18 years of age or older must complete the Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile form, be screened by Special Olympics Georgia via the Verified Volunteers website, complete the Online Protective Behaviors Course, sign and submit the Coach Code of Conduct form and complete the Concussion Training Online Course.
SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA
PARADE OF ATHLETES LINE-UP
&
AGENCY FLAG / BANNER
REQUIREMENTS

The following are the requirements concerning the Parade of Athletes and Flag/Banner’s for all Special Olympics Georgia Opening Ceremony’s:

• The parade line-up can only contain 2 Athletes & 1 Coach per delegation. If you have more, you will not be allowed to walk in the parade.

• Flag or Banner should be 3’ x 5’ on a 5’ pole (if desired).

• Flag or Banner should be made of cotton, vinyl, felt, or other like material.

• Flag or Banner should be able to be rolled up for safety after the Parade of Athletes.

• Flag or Banner should display the Special Olympics Georgia logo.

• No Flag or Banner should display a commercial sponsor, commercial message, or their product. *(This is not a recommendation but a policy of Special Olympics, Inc.)*

*DUE TO COVID-19, THERE WILL NOT BE A PARADE OF ATHLETES AT THE 2020 FALL GAMES*
SPORT SPECIFIC RULES

General Rules that pertain to ALL competitions sanctioned by Special Olympics:

- **No coach** shall be allowed on playing field, court, lanes, rink, etc. during divisioning or competition except for sports having modifications set forth by Special Olympics Georgia. (Example: Softball Team, Soccer Team, and Basketball Team competitions)
- Assistance shall be provided by a volunteer that is working any particular venue.
- Proper uniform clothing / safety equipment shall be worn for ALL competitions. Refer to Sports Rules Book for guidelines.
- No agency shall have an athlete or partner competing in Special Olympics that competes for a middle or high school team in the same sport, during the same season.
- All coaches shall follow the Code of Conduct displayed at [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org) or will be dismissed from coaching responsibilities.
- All coaches must dress appropriately on the playing field, court, etc. (Example: Softball Competition – Coaches should wear like uniforms or khaki shorts and team shirt with athletic socks and shoes / cleats.)
- Coaches should represent his / her team in a professional, positive, and encouraging manner.
- **Athletes of the coaches not abiding by these general rules may be eliminated from competition.**

**Bocce**

- Athletes shall wear like uniforms: shorts or warm up pants, like shirts, socks, and athletic shoes for competition.
- No jeans shall be allowed for competition.

**Cycling**

- Bicycle helmets are required.
- Athletes shall wear bicycle shorts or athletic shorts (warm up pants if cold) for competition.
- No jeans allowed for competition.

**Golf**

- Athletes shall wear khaki or colored slacks / shorts with polo or nice agency t-shirt.
- No jeans or sweat pants allowed for competition.

**Softball**

- Athletes shall wear matching uniforms with numbers, socks, and athletic shoes or softball cleats for competition.
- NO metal cleats allowed.
- No jeans shall be allowed for competition.
- Athletes shall wear NO jewelry.
- Catchers are required to wear facemask, batter’s helmet w/earflaps or catcher’s helmet, chest protector, leg protectors.
- All batters and base runners are required to wear a batter’s helmet with Chinstraps. NO coaches will be allowed on the field of play except for the 1st base and 3rd base coach.
- The designated pitching coach in the Modified Team Play Division will pitch only – no coaching allowed from this position while on the field of play.

*NOT PROVIDING AT THE 2020 FALL GAMES DUE TO COVID-19*
BOCCE
GENERAL RULES
The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall govern all Special Olympics Bocce competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon the International Federation for Bocce rules for Bocce competition. International Federation for Bocce rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall apply.

OFFICIAL EVENTS OFFERED
1. Unified Team – Any combination of males and females (2 Special Olympics Athletes and 2 Unified Partners)
2. Traditional Team – Any combination of males and females (4 Special Olympics Athletes)

SECTION A – GENERAL RULES
1. Competition will follow the International Federation for Bocce rules except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.
2. Athletes will follow bracket play as assigned prior to competition.
3. All Athletes and Unified Partners are required to have assessment scores submitted prior to competition.
4. Athletes or Unified Partners in a wheelchair are able to compete only if they are able to transport the ball, and release the ball, independently.
5. All Athletes and Unified Partners on a team must be able to roll the ball independently.
6. Legal line up for team competition:
   a. A Traditional Team must register 4 Athletes for a Traditional Team to be eligible. However, if a team is short-handed, the legal line up shall consist of three players with the fourth position counted as a “blind” roll. (The 4\textsuperscript{th} ball is considered a “dead ball”).
   b. A Unified Team must register 2 Athletes and 2 Unified Partners to be eligible. However, if a team is short-handed, the legal line up shall consist of three players (2 Athletes and 1 Unified Partner) with the fourth position counted as a “blind” roll. (The 4\textsuperscript{th} ball is considered a “dead ball”).
   c. NOTE: No “Alternate” players can be entered on Games paperwork.
   d. If teams show up for competition and a player becomes ill and is unable to compete, the team will either follow the “blind” rules or forfeit from competition. NO SUBSTITUTIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER COMPETITION BEGINS.
7. Any team late or missing a bracketed game time, will forfeit that spot in the bracket and be placed in the loser’s bracket for competition.

8. Any protests or rules infractions must be brought to the attention of the sports rules committee.

9. Coaches, chaperones, parents, etc. are not allowed on the playing field during competition. Once competition begins, coaches and spectators are not allowed to coach.

   **NOTE:** “Special Needs Athlete or Unified Partner” – If Special Needs is noted, this athlete’s coach will be allowed on the field for consultation with the volunteer during a special time period set up just prior to the beginning of competition. A “special needs athlete” is one who has a communication limitation, hearing impairment, visual impairment, or behavioral need.

10. Athletes and volunteers are not allowed to smoke, eat food or drink during competition. Water will be provided for hydration.

11. Athletes, coaches, volunteers or any other Special Olympics supporters are not allowed to smoke at the competition site. Alcohol and Illegal Drugs are prohibited from all Special Olympics events.

12. Uniforms / clothing – Athletes must be neat in their dress and wear proper bocce clothing. No cut off shorts or shirts with advertising will be allowed. Teams must wear like shirts. No jeans or camouflage (pants, capris, skirts, or shorts) shall be worn for competition. It is suggested that players wear khaki or colored shorts, slacks, or sweat pants and a collared shirt or nice tee. **Closed toed shoes must be worn!**

   **SECTION B – RAMP BOCCE**

   1. Ramp Bocce is not offered at this time. Therefore, all Athletes and Unified Partners must be able to participate independently in order to compete.
Equipment: The equipment will be a regulation bocce set and bocce court.

Object: The object of this skill is to roll bocce balls closest to the pallina to gain a score accurate for divisioning.

Rules:

- The pallina will be placed on the 30’ line for the athlete.
- The athlete will roll eight balls from behind the 10’ foul line.
- If the pallina is moved when a ball is rolled, replace the pallina on the 30’ line before rolling the next ball.
- The coach will measure the closest three balls and record their distance in centimeters.

- The pallina will be placed on the 40’ line for the athlete.
- The athlete will roll eight balls from behind the 10’ foul line.
- If the pallina is moved when a ball is rolled, replace the pallina on the 40’ line before rolling the next ball.
- The coach will measure the closest three balls and record their distance in centimeters.

- The pallina will be placed on the 50’ line for the athlete.
- The athlete will roll eight balls from behind the 10’ foul line.
- If the pallina is moved when a ball is rolled, replace the pallina on the 50’ line before rolling the next ball.
- The coach will measure the closest three balls and record their distance in centimeters.

Scoring: Measurements will be taken from the center top of the bocce ball to the center top of the pallina, for a total of nine measurements. These divisioning procedures comply with the Special Olympics honest-effort rule.

Record: Record the athletes’ scores on the score sheet. Turn in the measurement total with the games paperwork. This will help to ensure proper divisioning.
** Measure the 3 closest balls for each distance. Measurements will be taken from the center top of the bocce ball to the center top of the pallina in centimeters, for a total of measurements.

** Record each measurement. Total all measurements. The total is what is recorded on the games paperwork under "Bocce Division Score"