

summer sports classic

Special Olympics Wyoming



2026 SEASON INFORMATION & COACH PACKET



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Training:

Sports offered for Summer Sports Classic include golf, bowling, cycling, bocce, and softball.

Athletes and Unified partners can participate in up to three (3) sports. Athletes can participate in both sports from Day 1 (golf and bowling) and one (1) sport from Day 2 (cycling, bocce, or softball). Athletes must choose one event (singles or doubles; skills or team) in each sport other than cycling – cycling can be 3 events.

Summer Sports Classic is our only state-wide event that does not have a preliminary Area Games. However, participants are still required to have **8 weeks or 12 hours** of training in each sport to compete.

Paperwork Requirements:

Please ensure that all members of your team are up to date on paperwork for their training and competition season. Reach out to your Area Director for an updated report of your team.

Paperwork Requirements:

- Athletes require: [Athlete Registration](#) (1 time only), [Athlete Annual Renewal](#) (every year starting 1 year after athlete registration), [Athlete Medical](#) (every 3 years), and [Communicable Disease Waiver](#) (every 3 years)
- Unified partners require: [Class A Volunteer Form](#) (every 3 years) and [Communicable Disease Waiver](#) (every 3 years)
- Coaches require: [Class A Volunteer Form](#) (every 3 years), [Protective Behaviors Training](#) (every 3 years), [Concussion Training](#) (every 3 years), and [Communicable Disease Waiver](#) (every 3 years)

All athletes are expected to adhere to the [Athlete Code of Conduct](#).

All coaches are expected to adhere to the [Coaches Code of Conduct](#).

Recreational Swimming Guidelines:

Special Olympics Wyoming prohibits recreational swimming at any time while under the auspices of Special Olympics. Special Olympics Wyoming teams, including athletes, coaches, and Unified partners are **NOT** allowed to swim or use hot tubs at hotels at any time while attending Special Olympics Wyoming events. [Full policy here.](#)

***A copy of this policy, signed by Local Program Coordinator, must be on file at the Special Olympics Wyoming office prior to their team attending competition.**

Housing Arrangements:

Athletes, Unified partners, coaches, and chaperones (participants) are on a one person per bed basis. Arrangements cannot be made that will ask two people to share a bed. Housing male and female participants together is not permitted. The exception to this rule is a married couple.

Sport-Specific Information:

All Sports:

Maximum effort/honest effort rule: Athletes are expected to give maximum effort when competing. This is the only way the divisioning process can work as it was intended. Athletes who do not participate honestly and with maximum effort in all preliminary trials and/or finals violate the true spirit of competition. Anyone who increases their final score by 15% or more from their qualifying score may be disqualified.

Rules: each sport played at the Summer Sports Classic will follow the most updated Special Olympics rulebook for each sport (2024). Please make sure your program/team is using these updated rules. Rules can be found on our website here:

<https://sowy.org/sports/sports-offered>.

Protest form: If a coach has a dispute against a violation of rules at any competition, they must fill out a protest form immediately following the event in which they want to protest. Protest forms are located with the venue director or at the main check-in/awards table. They must be turned into the venue director before the awards happen for that event. Protest forms must relate to a violation of rules, and the coach must be able to prove which rule the infraction violated in the most updated sport rulebook.

Bowling:

- Athletes may compete in either Singles, Doubles, or Unified Bowling events.
- Appropriate attire for bowlers is khaki or dress pants, Bermuda shorts or knee length skirts and a collared shirt. Jeans are **NOT** appropriate.
- Tournament play consists of three games per event.
- Assisted bowlers (ramp and other adaptive equipment):
 - Must provide their own equipment.
 - Will be divisioned together.

- Bowlers using handle balls will be considered assisted bowlers and will be divisioned with other assisted bowlers. Please enter as such on the registration form.
- Please indicate on the registration form whether the assisted bowler self aims or if they compete with the coach aiming.
- The qualifying score is the athlete's average score from practice (preferably 15 games minimum).
 - Qualifying score= Total Game Points divided by number of games bowled.

*Example: Total pins knocked down 1264 divided by 21 games bowled = 60
(drop all fractions) average/entry score.*

- Summer Sports Classic will be a scratch bowling tournament. In a scratch tournament, athletes are assigned divisions based on their entered average. An athlete's bowling average/entry score is determined by dividing the total number of pins knocked down by the number of games bowled.
- Competitors shall bowl one frame on one lane, and for the next frame alternate and use the other lane until five frames are bowled on each lane of the pair. Assisted bowlers will stay on their lane the entire game.
- Frequently Asked Questions:
 - Can assisted bowlers be on a doubles team?
 - Yes, please make a note on the registration if one or both athletes use a ramp.

Cycling:

- Cycling athletes may compete in a maximum of three events.
- Cyclists are expected to provide their own equipment.
- Helmets that meet the safety standards of the National Governing Body are required for practice and competition for athletes and coaches on the course.
- Please secure training times (qualifying score) for each athlete for each registered cycling event during training sessions and include these times on the registration forms. Times for events are due with registration forms by the registration deadline.
- Cycling events include: 250M, 500M, 1K, 2K, 5K, 10K, and 1K Relay

Golf:

- Appropriate attire for golfers is khaki or dress pants, Bermuda shorts or knee length skirts and a collared shirt. Jeans are **NOT** appropriate.
- Unified Sports Alternate Shot Team Play Competition (9-hole)
- Each swing will be counted as a stroke. This includes any whiff. Partners must alternate turns if this occurs.

- Tee off from the red tees.
- For the first hole both athlete and partner tee off. Choose the best drive and alternate shots to the hole.
- On the second hole teams will start to alternate drives.
- The stroke limit per hole is 10, please pick up your ball once reached. If a 10th stroke is played without holing, record that 10x.
- It is your responsibility to keep the play moving.
- All golfers must sign scorecards and turn them into the awards table when they are finished.

Bocce:

- Athletes may compete in either Singles, Doubles, or Unified Bocce events.
- Athletes and Unified partners will complete a divisioning round before competition to determine final divisions for competition.
- Final divisions will be in groups of 2, 3, or 4.
 - Divisions of 2 will play best 2 out of 3 games.
 - Divisions of 3 will play round robin. If there is a tie, a point-differential will be calculated. If there is still a tie, a tie-breaking frame may be played.
 - Divisions of 4 will play a bracket: A against B and C against D. Winners of each game will then play each other for 1st and 2nd, and losers of each game will play each other for 3rd and 4th.

Softball Skills:

- The Individual Skills Competition is provided for athletes with limitations (such as walkers and wheelchairs), younger athletes and athletes new to the sport of softball and older athletes who still have the skills to play softball but cannot play an entire game. Individual skills are NOT for athletes who can already play the game.

Softball Team:

- Maximum roster size is 15 players per team. All players on the roster may bat and any 10 can play defense. Defensive positions may change but the batting order must stay the same throughout the entire game.
- **All players must be on your roster; you may not pick up players from other teams or play anyone who is not on your roster when you submit registration.**
- **Traditional lineup:** Ten players: pitcher (F1), catcher (F2), first baseman (F3), second baseman (F4), third baseman (F5), shortstop (F6), left fielder (F7), left center fielder (F8), right fielder (F9) and right center fielder (F10).
- **Unified lineup:** Positioning requirements: two athletes and two partners in both the infield and the outfield, and one athlete and one partner as pitcher or catcher.
- **Batting order:**

- Unified must alternate between athletes and Unified partners.
- If a substitute is required for a player due to injury, ejection or otherwise, and additional players are available and not already on the batting order, athletes may replace athletes, and Unified partners may replace Unified partners in the batting order. If no other players are available, an out is taken for that spot in the batting order.
- Helmets **MUST** be worn by all batters, base runners, and those in the on-deck circle
- Games are seven innings
- Time limit:
 - 50 minutes (if the tournament has 2 umpires)
 - 1 hour (if the tournament has 3+ umpires)
- Run rule:
 - 15 after 4
 - 12 after 5
- Can substitute once per person when batting
- Can substitute whenever you want in the field
- 1 and 1 advanced count – each player will start with a pitch count of 1 strike and 1 ball each time they are up to bat.
- We will not have a second home plate. The **Commitment Line** is 20 ft. from home plate. Once the runner crosses the commitment line, any play at the plate will be treated as a force out, even if it is not (similar to a play at first base).

Field Setup:

- 60 ft. bases
- Double first base (runner should use orange base)
- Pitching distance is set at 40 ft.
 - Unified distance allows up to 55 ft. However, SOWY does not have a rubber for 55 ft. The pitcher may move back from the 40 ft. rubber to pitch from a consistent spot.

Registration:

Registration will be sent out by the state office and will be due **Monday, July 13th** to Gracie Rawlings at grawlings@specialolympicswy.org It is imperative that you turn in registration by the deadline so that we have the proper time to enter all participants, division, and send you delegation reports to check. We will not accept late registrations. Registration is also available in the [Google Drive folder](#).

You will need to include qualifying scores/times for all athletes in all events (except bocce).

Special Events:

LETR: the Law Enforcement Torch Run is tentatively planning a Torch Run. More information is coming soon!

Meals:

Special Olympics Wyoming will provide lunches on both days of competition.

- If you or your athletes have specific dietary needs or do not like meal choices, please make arrangements to bring your own lunch.
- SOWY will not reimburse you if you choose not to eat one of our prearranged meals or go off site for food.
- It is important that local/team coordinators provide an accurate number of meals on their registration form.

Lodging:

- We are proud to partner with three host hotels for the 2026 Summer Sports Classic:
 - Baymont Inn & Suites (\$79/night): Call 307-235-3038
 - 20 available rooms
 - Super 8 Casper West (\$79/night): Booking code/date deadline TBD
 - 20 available rooms
 - Quality Inn (\$89/night): Booking code/date deadline TBD
 - 20 available rooms

Each hotel will direct bill the office. Coaches/volunteers will still need to put down a credit card for incidentals at the time of check-in, typically it is a \$100 hold. Teams should send their rooming lists (only need first and last names) to mhenry@specialolympicswy.org and the hotels directly no later than one week before check-in to make for a smooth check in process.

