



2023 Summer Games Event Guide

Friday June 23 - Sunday June 25

Towson University (*Athletics, Bocce, Cheerleading, Swimming*)
Kiwanis Wallas Park - Ellicott City, MD (*Softball*)

Special Olympics



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Dear Delegations, Families, Spectators, Volunteers, and Guests,

We are proud to welcome you to the 2023 Special Olympics Maryland Summer Games!

The 2023 Special Olympics Maryland Summer Games are again hosted by the wonderful communities of Baltimore and Howard Counties and our host venues of Towson University as well as Kiwanis Wallas Park in Ellicott City, MD. This weekend more than 1,200 Special Olympics athletes and Unified® teammates will compete in the sports of; athletics (track & field), bocce, cheerleading, softball and swimming.

Special Olympics Maryland would like to thank Towson University for continuing to partner with us for the Summer Games. We would also like to thank Kiwanis Wallas Park and Howard County Recreation & Parks for hosting our softball competition.

We wish all athletes, Unified® teammates and coaches the best of luck. If we can be of any assistance during the competition, please let us know.

Thank you for your assistance in making the 2023 Special Olympics Maryland Summer Games a wonderful event for our athletes and Unified® teammates!

Enjoy the Games,
Special Olympics Maryland & the Games Management Team

Our Vision

Special Olympics Maryland will be the leader in life-long and Unified® sports programs for individuals with intellectual disabilities, empowering athletes to be valued members of their community and respected members of society.

Our Mission

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

Our Values

- Community connections and bridges
- Friendships for life
- Integrity by “doing the right thing”
- Opportunity to excel
- Quality in all we do
- Sportsmanship and fairness for all

Important Phone Numbers

Games Control Center

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Minnegan Room, Unitas Stadium | 410.704.5527 |
| Friday 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. | |
| Saturday 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. | |
| Sunday 6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | |

Emergency Contact Information

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Emergency | 911 |
| Poison Control Center | 800.222.1222 |
| Towson University Police | 410.704.4444 |

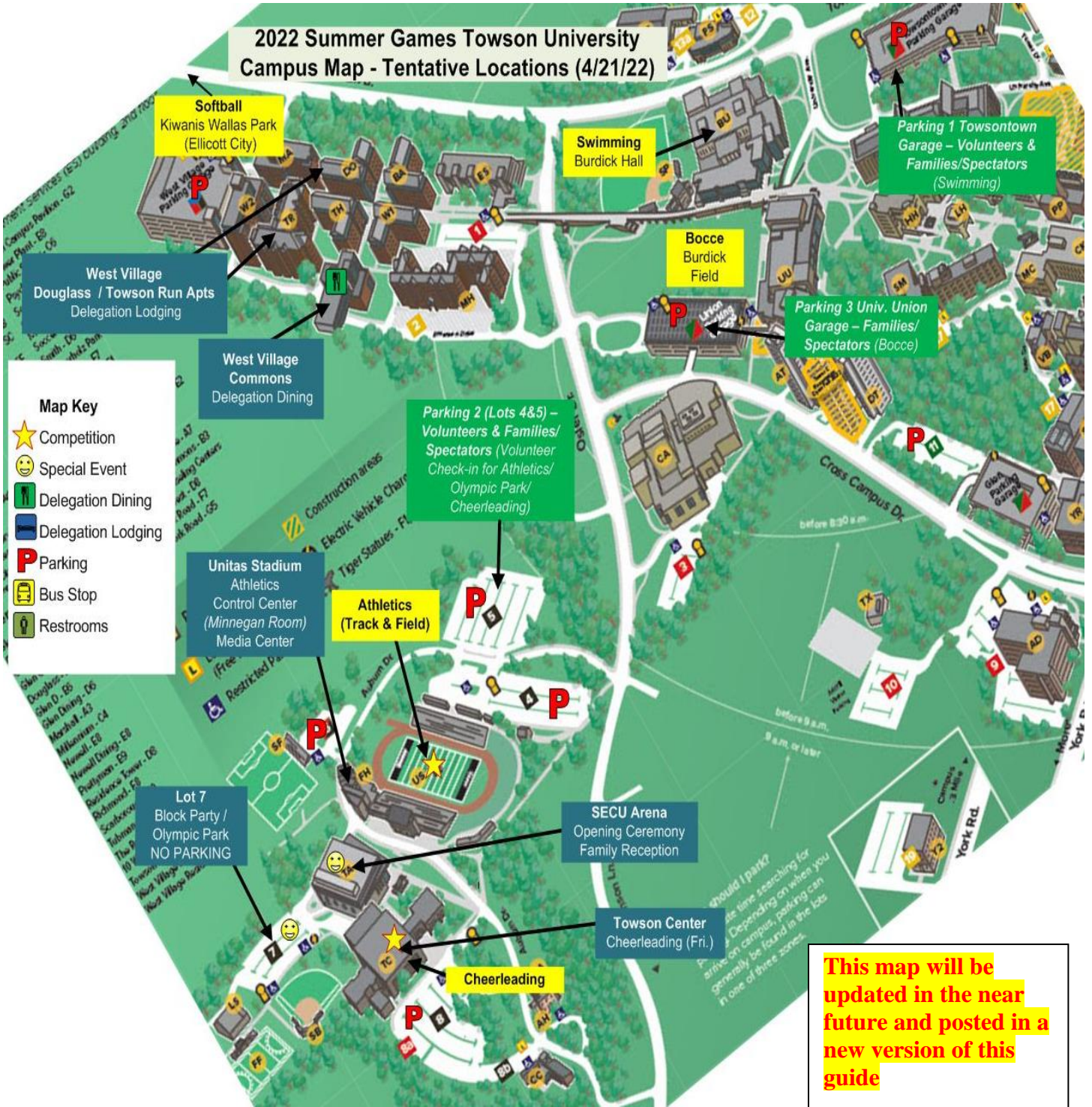
Campus and General Contact Information

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Special Olympics Maryland Headquarters | 410.242.1515 |
| Towson University | 410.704.2000 |
| Towson University - West Village Commons | 410.704.6666 |

+Towson University and Kiwanis Wallas Park are “Smoke-free” locations.

Summer Games Map - Towson University

8000 York Road, Towson, MD 21252



Tentative Schedule of Events

Thursday June 22, 2023

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Delegation Registration - <i>University Union - 1st Floor</i> |
| 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. | HOD Meeting - TBD |

Friday June 23, 2023

Competition and Events

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| 7:00 a.m. | Volunteer Registration - <i>Lot 4/5 and near Burdick Hall</i> |
| 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Control Center Open - <i>Unitas Stadium, Minnegan Room</i> |
| 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Cheerleading Competition - <i>Towson Center</i> |
| 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Swimming Competition - <i>Burdick Hall</i> |
| 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Dinner <i>Ballrooms A, B, C - West Village Commons - 4th Floor</i> |
| 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. | Block Party - <i>SECU Lot 7</i> |
| 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Merchandise - <i>SECU Lot 7</i> |
| 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. | Champions Reception - <i>SECU Arena</i> |
| 6:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Staging for Parade of Athletes - <i>SECU Arena</i> |
| 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | The Opening Ceremony - <i>SECU Arena</i> |

Friday Head Coaches' Meetings

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 9:40 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Cheerleading - <i>Towson Center (Competition Mat)</i> |
| 12:45 p.m. - 12:55 p.m. | Swimming - <i>Burdick Pool (Pool Deck)</i> |
| 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. | Athletics (T&F) - <i>TBD</i> |
| 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. | Bocce - <i>TBD</i> |
| | NOTE: Softball's first coaches' meeting will occur at the venue on Saturday morning at the competition venue. |

Meals

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Lunch - <i>Cheerleading Venue</i> <i>(Cheerleading delegation members only)</i> |
| 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Dinner <i>Ballrooms A, B, C - West Village Commons - 4th Floor</i> |

Tentative Schedule of Events

Saturday June 24, 2023

Competition and Events

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Control Ctr Open - <i>Unitas Stadium, Minnegan Room</i> |
| 7:00 a.m. | Buses to Ellicott City (Softball) Begin |
| 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Volunteer Registration - <i>Lot 4/5 and near Burdick Hall</i> |
| 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Swimming - <i>Towson - Burdick Hall</i> |
| 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Bocce - <i>Towson - Burdick Fields</i> |
| 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Softball (and Home Run Derby) - <i>Kiwanis Wallas Park</i> |
| 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Athletics (T&F) - <i>Towson - Unitas Stadium</i> |
| 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Healthy Athletes - <i>University Union - 3rd Floor - Ballrooms</i> |
| 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Olympic Park - <i>SECU Arena Lot 7</i> |
| 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Merchandise - <i>SECU Arena / Lot 7 (at Dance)</i> |
| 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Head of Delegation Meeting - <i>TBD</i> |
| 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Dance - <i>SECU Lot 7 (Theme - "Out of this World")</i> |

Tentative Dining Schedule

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 6:00 a.m. - 7:15 a.m. | Breakfast Shift 1 - Swimming and Softball <i>West Village Commons - 4th Floor - Ballrooms</i> |
| 7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. | Breakfast Shift 2 - Athletics and Bocce <i>West Village Commons - 4th Floor - Ballrooms</i> |
| 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Lunch - <i>Competition Venues</i> |
| 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Dinner - Shift 1 - Athletics and Bocce <i>West Village Commons - 4th Floor - Ballrooms</i> |
| 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Dinner - Shift 2 - Swimming and Softball <i>West Village Commons - 4th Floor - Ballrooms</i> |

Saturday Head Coaches' Meetings

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Softball - <i>Kiwanis Wallas Park</i> |
| 4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. | Swimming - <i>Towson - Burdick Hall</i> |
| 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Athletics (T&F) - <i>Towson - Unitas Stadium Track Staging</i> <i>(or 10 minutes following end of competition)</i> |
| 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Bocce - <i>Towson - Awards Area</i> <i>(or immediately following end of competition)</i> |
| 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Softball - <i>Softball Venue (following last game)</i> |

Tentative Schedule of Events

Sunday June 25, 2023

Competition and Events

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Control Ctr. Open - <i>Unitas Stadium, Minnegan Room</i> |
| 7:00 a.m. | Buses Begin for Cockeysville (Softball) |
| 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Volunteer Registration - <i>Lot 4/5 and Burdick Hall</i> |
| 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Swimming - <i>Towson - Burdick Hall</i> |
| 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Bocce - <i>Towson - Burdick Fields</i> |
| 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Softball - <i>Kiwanis Wallas Park - Ellicott City</i> |
| 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Athletics (T&F) - <i>Towson - Unitas Stadium</i> |

Tentative Dining Schedule

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 6:00 a.m. - 7:15 a.m. | Breakfast Shift 1 - Swimming and Softball <i>West Village Commons - 4th Floor - Ballrooms</i> |
| 7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. | Breakfast Shift 2 - Athletics and Bocce <i>West Village Commons - 4th Floor - Ballrooms</i> |
| 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Lunch - <i>Competition Venues</i> |

General Competition Information

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules (available at www.specialolympics.org) shall govern all Special Olympics competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon International Sports Federation (ISF) and National Governing Body (NGB) rules for each sport. NGB rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Special Olympics Sports Rules. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall apply.

General Competition Rules

- Athletes are required to wear appropriate competition attire as defined in the Sports Rules for their specific sport. Athlete uniforms must comply with the requirements of each sport.
- Athletes will be divisioned according to the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules. Athletes will be divisioned based upon age, gender and ability. Some age groups may be combined to offer the best competition opportunities for the competitors.
- It is the responsibility of each coach to submit the best entry score for each competitor.
- Athletes and Unified® teammates may compete in only one sport. However, those athletes and Unified® teammates competing in Cheerleading may also compete in another sport if the schedules do not conflict.
- Athletes entered in fundamental events will be entered in other events only at the discretion of the Competition Director.
- Each Delegation must designate one head coach for each sport and one head coach for each Cheerleading and Softball team. If a Delegation has athletes in the softball individual skills competition, it must also designate one head coach for those athletes. Head coaches must meet all requirements for being designated as the head coach.
- Only the sport-specific head coach for a Delegation may file protests (with the exception of Athletics - see Athletics section for details). Protests may be appealed to the Games Rules Committee.

Protest Procedures

Only an athlete's/teammate's certified head coach may file a protest on behalf of the athlete/teammate. No protests will be accepted from other coaches, athletes, teammates, chaperones, volunteers or family members (with the exception of athletics where USATF rules permit an athlete/teammate to file a protest on his/her own behalf). Protests may only be made on the application of sports rules, not on the judgment of officials.

Protests must be on a Special Olympics Maryland Protest Form and must be submitted to the Control Center at the appropriate sports venue within 30 minutes after the posting of the results for the specific competition in question (15 minutes for Bocce). For all sports except Softball, a specific competition is complete when the results for that competition (heat, flight or game) are posted at the venue. For Softball, the end of a game will signify the "completion of the specific competition".

The Sports Rules Committee for each sport will rule on each protest within two hours of its receipt. The decision of the Sports Rules Committee may be appealed by the Head of Delegation to the Games Rules Committee. Appeals must be filed within 24 hours after the coach receives notification of the protest ruling; appeals must be submitted to the Games Control Center (located in the Minnegan Room in Unitas Stadium). The decision of the Games Rules Committee is final.

The members of Games Rules Committee will be provided at the Head of Delegation Meeting on June 22, 2023. Sports Rules Committees listings are included in each sport section or will be provided at the Friday evening Head Coaches Meeting. Protest / Appeals Forms will be available at the Control Center at each sports venue and at the Games Control Center.

Athletics (Track & Field) Information



ATHLETICS

Competition Dates: Saturday, June 24 - Sunday, June 25, 2023

Time of Competition: Saturday 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Location: Towson University - Unitas Stadium

Competition Director: Ron Freeman
Head Rules Official: Chris McGuinness

National Governing Body: USA Track and Field - www.usatf.org

Anticipated Participants: 275 Athletes

Entries: Athletes may enter a maximum of three individual events and two relays (provided the two relay events are contested on separate days).

Pentathlon is considered one individual event.

Spectators: Ample bleacher seating is available for 10,000 spectators, and handicap accessible seating is available. Delegations and spectators are encouraged to bring their own tents (and materials to secure them). Tents may be set-up in the bleachers, but may not be kept in the stadium overnight. Tents are not permitted in the five rows closest to the track to allow spectator visibility. Spectators must also take measures to secure tents in case of inclement weather. Tents must be removed if instructed to do so by either Special Olympics Maryland or Towson University.

Track Events Offered

- 25 Meters**
- 50 Meters**
- 100 Meters
- 200 Meters
- 400 Meters
- 800 Meters
- 1500 Meters
- 3000 Meters
- 5000 Meters
- Men's 110 Meter Hurdles
- Women's 100 Meter Hurdles
- 4 x 100 Meter Relay
- 4 x 200 Meter Relay
- 4 x 400 Meter Relay
- 4 x 100 Meter Unified Relay
- 4 x 200 Meter Unified Relay
- 4 x 400 Meter Unified Relay
- 25 Meter Walk**
- 50 Meter Walk**
- 100 Meter Walk
- 400 Meter Walk
- 800 Meter Walk
- 10 Meter Assisted Walk**
- 25 Meter Assisted Walk**
- 50 Meter Assisted Walk**
- 10 Meter Wheelchair Race
- 25 Meter Wheelchair Race
- 30 Meter Wheelchair Slalom
- 4 x 25 Meter Shuttle Relay
- 30 Meter Motorized Slalom
- 50 Meter Motorized Slalom
- 25 M Motor Obstacle Race
- 100 Meter Wheelchair Race
- 200 Meter Wheelchair Race
- 400 Meter Wheelchair Race

Field Events Offered

- Long Jump
- High Jump
- Shot Put
 - Men: 4.0 kg/ 8.8lbs
 - Women: 3.0kg/6.6lbs
 - Men (8-11 years): 3.0 kg/6.6 lbs
 - Women (8-11 years): 2 kg/4.4 lbs
 - Wheelchair: 2kg/4.4lbs
- Mini Javelin
 - Men: 400g
 - Women: 300g
 - Men and Women (8-15 years): 300g
- Standing Long Jump
- Softball Throw**
- Tennis Ball Throw**

Combined Events Offered

- Pentathlon (100 Meters, Long Jump, Shot Put, High Jump, 800 Meters)

***These events are considered "fundamental events" and are open only to athletes who are currently unable to compete in the standard athletics events offered.*

Athletics Rules of Competition

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules (available at www.specialolympics.org) shall govern all Special Olympics Athletics competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) and the National Governing Body rules for Athletics (USA Track & Field). NGB rules shall be employed at these Games except when they are in conflict with Special Olympics Sports Rules. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall apply.

Athletics Sports Rules Committee (*composition per USATF rules*)

- Ron Freeman - Competition Director
- Chris McGuinness - Referee
- Other members TBD

Athletics Rules of Competition:

Complete, detailed rules of competition can be obtained on the SOMD Athletics (Track & Field) Coach Resource Page (<https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/athletics-2/>).

Protests

A rule in the NGB rules (USATF rules) permits athletes as well as head coaches to file protests. Special Olympics Maryland views this rule as an excellent opportunity for on-going development for our athletes. We do have concerns about some athletes' knowledge of protests, and the potential for great frustration when protests are filed for non-protestable issues (while such inappropriate protests will be accepted, they will routinely be denied per USATF rules).

As a part of this learning and development process for our athletes, we strongly encourage coaches to provide proper guidance to athletes on what are appropriate issues to protest and with the proper and timely completion/submission of protest forms.

In general, issues that may be legitimately protested include a rules error by an official; an error in the recording of a score; the maximum effort rule; etc.

Issues that will be automatically denied if protested include an official's judgment call including if the official did not call a violation, divisioning, etc.

Reminder: Exit Criteria for Softball Throw and 50M Run

Special Olympics Maryland (SOMD) is instituting "exit criteria" for entries into the Softball Throw and 50 Meter Race.

The Softball Throw (SBT) and 50 Meter Race (50M) are both classified as "fundamental events" in Special Olympics - essentially events for athletes who do not currently have the capability to participate in the standard athletics events such as the 100 meter race and the mini-jav. There has been an on-going challenge with athletes being entered in the SBT and 50M whose skills and abilities indicate that they are fully capable of competing in the standard events, for example they can throw a softball more than 10 meters or run the 50M in 15 seconds or faster.

For the 2023 Summer Games, SOMD will enforce the following exit criteria for these events:

- Softball Throw: No athlete will be permitted to enter the SBT with an entry score of 20 meters or greater; any athlete who throws the softball at Summer Games a distance of 20 meters or greater will be subject to disqualification.
- 50 Meter Race: No athlete will be permitted to enter the 50M with an entry score of 10 seconds or less; any athlete who runs the 50M at Summer Games with a time of 10 seconds or less will be subject to disqualification.

Uniforms

- General
 - Athletes/teammates not in proper uniform will be disqualified.
 - It is the responsibility of the Coach to ensure that athletes/teammates comply with this rule *prior to* checking into the Staging Tent.
 - Any coach who has a question as to whether the attire or footwear of an athlete/teammate is appropriate is responsible for asking the Venue Director for a ruling in advance of check-in at the Staging Tent.
 - Divisions will not be held up for the purpose of changing attire/footwear and athletes/teammates will not be re-assigned to a subsequent division.
- Attire
 - In all events, competitors must wear clothing which is clean, and designed and worn so as not to be objectionable. The clothing must be made of a material which is non-transparent even if wet.
 - The competitors must not wear clothing which could impede the view of the judges. This rule shall be enforced by the Clerk of Course for track events and the Chief Judge of each respective field event. (Athletic shorts/pants are to be worn; no “khakis”, denim or cut-off shorts.)
 - During competition, athletes/teammates may not wear medals, ribbons, name badges, hats, headphones or jewelry (except medical alert bracelets/necklaces; stud earrings and simple, flat rings may be allowed at the officials’ discretion). Athletes/teammates should wear their name badge to check in at staging. The escort for their event will collect/hold their name badge during competition and return it to the athlete/teammate at the end of competition in that event.
 - Athletes/teammates in races 800 meters or longer may wear a wrist watch or other personal timing device.
 - Competition numbers must be visible on the front of the competitor.
 - Competitors may not wear clothing with advertising on it during competition or awards.

- Competitors may not wear visible temporary tattoos or face paint during competition or awards.
- Footwear
 - A competitor may compete in bare feet or with footwear on one or both feet. The purpose of shoes for competition is to give protection and stability to the feet and a firm grip of the ground. Such shoes, however, must not be constructed so as to give the competitor any additional assistance, and no spring or device of any kind may be incorporated in the shoes. A shoe strap over the instep is permissible.
 - Shoes, if worn, must be appropriate for athletic competition.
 - The sole and the heel of the shoes may be so constructed as to provide for the use of up to 11 spikes. Any number of spikes up to 11 may be used, but the number of spike positions shall not exceed 11.
 - The part of each spike which projects from the sole or the heel must not exceed 9 millimeters or $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch. These spikes shall have a maximum diameter of 4 millimeters.
 - The sole and/or heel may have grooves, ridges, indentations or protuberances provided these features are constructed of the same or similar material to the basic sole itself.
 - In the high jump, the sole shall have a maximum thickness of 13 millimeters and the heel shall have a maximum thickness of 19 millimeters. In all other events, shoes may be of any thickness.
- Relay Teams
 - All members of the Relay Team must be identifiable as team members. Team identification shall be clearly visible and shall distinguish one team from another. Where this is not accomplished by the meet's issuing items (such as letters or distinguishing numbers), team members shall wear an identifying article, such as an identical singlet or shirt.

Staging

The Staging Areas for all events will be located inside the competition venue.

Staging for Track events on all days will be held in the large tent running along the building. Staging for Field events will be held in the tent to the left of the main scoreboard. Wheelchair events, Assisted Walks and Pentathlon events will be staged at the Athletics Control Center tent.

All competitors must be in the Staging tent a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of their event. Coaches will be provided with individualized schedules, including the start times for each event, for their Delegation/athletes on Saturday morning, available for pick-up in the Athletics Control Center tent.

Only competitors and registered Athletics' volunteers will be permitted inside the Staging Area. Coaches and family members are not permitted in the Staging Area.

Each head coach (one per delegation) will be issued two credentials that will each allow one coach into the Staging Area for the sole purpose of assisting athletes as needed and approved by management personnel with stretching in preparation for their upcoming event. All stretching must be done in the immediate proximity of the athlete's assigned staging row. It is the coaches' responsibility to make certain that the athlete is seated and ready to go with his/her division at the proper time. Staging personnel and escorts will not search for athletes who have been moved by their coach and may thus result in an athlete missing their event. Head coaches may allow different coaches at different times to use these two credentials at their discretion.

Time Conflicts: Effort is made to minimize the number of athletes having competition "time conflicts" (*athletes having two events scheduled at the same time or in very close succession*). However, there inevitably will be a few athletes with such time conflicts. If a conflict does exist, the athlete should compete in the track event first and then the field event. *It is responsibility of the coach to*

notify the Staging Clerks of any possible time conflicts when the athlete reports to Staging for the first of the two potentially conflicting events. A Coach must notify both the Track Staging Clerk and the Field Staging Clerk if the conflict involves a track and a field event.

If an athlete misses his/her designated heat/flight due to a competition conflict, an effort may be made by the competition director to add the athlete to an appropriate heat/flight later in the schedule that meets Special Olympics divisioning guidelines. Note: It is extremely likely that an athlete will not be able to be added to another heat/flight.

An athlete may not compete in a heat/flight if he/she is not registered for that heat/flight or has not been added to it by authorized personnel (Competition Director, the Athletics Referee or SOMD personnel). The heats/flights are based on entry times submitted by the coach. To add new athletes to a heat/flight would be unfair to the other athletes who were properly registered.

Athletes will be escorted from the Staging area to the start line or field event by Athletics competition volunteers. Following each heat/flight, athletes will be escorted from the finish line or field event to the Awards area. Coaches are to meet their athletes in the Awards area which is located on the field level near the scoreboard at the track.

Pentathlon athletes will be escorted as a group to each event by the Pentathlon Clerk. The Pentathlon Clerk will give coaches of pentathlon athletes designated times to have their athletes meet by the Control Center tent before each of the five events.

Warm-Ups

Competitors and coaches are strongly encouraged to warm-up and practice in the competition venue each morning prior to the start of competition. Please cooperate with other coaches and competitors so that everyone wishing to warm-up or practice may do so. An announcement will be made over the main PA system when the facilities must be cleared for the start of competition.

There will also be a warm-up area along the back section of the track where coaches may work with competitors to warm-up at any time that the area is not being used for competition (i.e., warm-up area will be closed during races 400M and longer and during relays). Competitors must be supervised by a coach at all times when using the warm-up area and the supervising coach must be physically present in the warm-up area at all times.

Daily Opening Observances

The stadium will be officially opened each day with a brief ceremony immediately prior to the start of competition.

Track Security

Spectators, coaches, and chaperones will not have access to the track or the staging area. Only competitors and appropriate Summer Games operational management personnel will be permitted on the track and inside the staging area (except as otherwise noted).

Results

Results will be posted at a location near the Track Staging Tent and the Athletics Control Center tent.

Shade and Tents

Delegations may place rigid pop-up tents in the stands if they wish. Placement will be on a “first come” basis; please cooperate with other delegations on tent placement. No tents may be set up in any of the first five rows of seats closest to the track to minimize obstruction of spectator visibility. Setting up tents is at your own risk and SOMD and Towson University assume no responsibility for any damage that may occur. Delegations will be required to remove any tent that appears to present a safety risk at the sole discretion of SOMD and Towson University.

Parking

Parking is available in lots 4, 5 & 6 (see map at beginning of this guide).

Lunch

Each Delegation will be given a designated time at which they will pick up all lunches for their registered Delegation members.

Photo Credentials

Each Delegation making a request, will be issued two media credentials which will permit the wearer of said credential(s) into the Athletics competition areas for the sole purpose of taking photographs of their competitors. Head coaches may allow different individuals at different times to wear these credentials. The wearer accepts the responsibilities of using good judgment, following instructions of Management personnel, remaining in designated areas and refraining from “coaching” or providing other assistance to competitors. It is also required that these individuals position themselves so they do not obstruct the view of the majority of spectators.

Credentials may be revoked at any time at the sole discretion of Athletics Committee members, Games Organizing Committee members, or SOMD Staff. Inappropriate behavior on the part of the wearer of the media credential (i.e., coaching, pacing, etc.) may result in the competitor(s) being disqualified, per USATF rules.

Coaches’ Meetings

The coaches’ online Pre-Competition webinar will be held on Tuesday, June 15, 2023 from 7-8:00pm and a recording of the meeting made available on the [Athletics Coaches Resource Page](#).

During the Games, the head coach from each Delegation must attend the coaches’ meetings and is responsible for ensuring that information from these meetings is shared with all members of the Delegation. The Athletics coaches’ meetings are scheduled for Friday June 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in Uritas Stadium, Field View Room (3rd floor, next to the Minnegan Room, location of the Games Control Center); Saturday June 24, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. (or 10 minutes following the completion of competition) at the Track Staging Tent.

Awards

Awards will be presented at the Awards area following the completion of each division. Awards will be located on the stadium floor in the large tent near the scoreboard.

If an athlete has a potential time conflict between a competitive event and an awards presentation, they should go to the competitive event's staging area to compete in that event, and skip having their award presented with the rest of the members of their division. They may return to the awards area at a later time for their individual awards presentation.

Track Events

- Starts
 - ALL races will be started using a starter's pistol without exception (other than rare equipment failure).
 - All races 400 meters in length or shorter will be started using a starter's pistol and with two commands. Races 800 meters in length or longer will be started using a starter's pistol and a single command.
 - All races 100 meters and shorter will start using a common start line. All races between 200 meters and 800 meters will start using staggered start lines. All races 1500 meters and longer will start using a waterfall start line (with the exception of the 4x400M relay).
- Starting Blocks
 - In races up to and including the 400 meters and the lead-off leg of the relays, athletes have the option of using starting blocks.
- Impedes
 - In all races which are 400 meters or shorter, and for the first turn of the 800 meter races, athletes are required to run/walk within their lane. Athletes will be disqualified for going outside of their lane when another athlete is impeded or an unfair advantage is gained. Whether an athlete has impeded the progress of another competitor or gained an unfair advantage is a judgment call made by a race Official, and therefore it is not open to protest. In events longer than 400 meters, the athlete may leave the lane at the appropriate "cut-in" points but cannot impede the progress of another runner.
- Relays

- A final roster and run order for each 4x100M, 4x200M and 4x400M Relay Team must be submitted at the coaches meeting on Friday June 23, 2023. Coaches will provide this information by marking or approving a set of division sheets. These sheets will be based on the team names provided during the registration process. Only team members and alternates listed on a team's original entry may be included on this card. No new athletes may be added.
- The final runner on each Relay Team must hold the baton until after all runners in that race have completed the race, or until a competition official has collected the baton. A Relay Team will be disqualified if the final athlete throws the baton in any direction (onto the ground, up in the air, to the side, etc.) after crossing the finish line.
- After passing the baton or completing the race, incoming runners must stay in their lanes until it is clear that they will not impede another Relay Team's performance. Impeding another team's progress, even after your team has finished the race, will result in disqualification.
- Exchange zone umpires will physically show each division of runners the beginning and end of the exchange zone. Following the demonstration, the exchange zone umpires will position all athletes at the approximate center of the exchange zone. At that point the athletes are free to reposition themselves at any point within the exchange zone without any further direction or correction from the umpire. It is the athlete/team's responsibility to ensure that the baton is legally exchanged within the exchange zone.
- Per USATF Rules and Guidelines:
 - The 4x200M relay will use a 4-turn stagger start and the runners must stay in their lane throughout the race.
 - The 4x400M relay will be started using a 1-turn stagger start and the first runner on each relay team must stay within their lane until they reach the break line near the end of the first turn on the track at which time they may move into an inner lane.
 - It is the responsibility of a runner in the process of moving into an inner lane to avoid impeding other

runners; impeding another runner while changing lanes is subject to disqualification.

- There shall be four athletes on each Relay Team, all in matching athletic attire. No athlete shall run more than one leg of any one relay. Relay team members must come from within the same Delegation.
- In accordance with Special Olympics rules, Unified® Relay Teams will be divisioned with other Unified® Relay Teams.
- Wheelchair Events and Assisted Walks
 - Athletes shall not be pushed, pulled, or otherwise assisted during wheelchair events. Athletes who use motorized wheelchairs may only compete in those races which are specifically designed for motorized wheelchairs. Athletes who use manual wheelchairs may only compete in those races which are specifically designed for manual wheelchairs.
 - In assisted walks, the athlete must provide his/her own walking aid. The athlete may not receive assistance from coaches, etc. Athletes/teammates who have visual or hearing impairments should be entered into the non-assisted events with appropriate accommodations made (hand signals, guide rope, guide runner, etc.).
 - Requests for such accommodations must be included in advance in the “comments” section for that specific event in the athlete’s registration for Summer Games.
- Longer Races (400 Meters and above)
 - On occasion and entirely at the Officials’ discretion, one person or two person divisions in the 400 M and 800 M races may be merged with other divisions for the conducting of the competition. In such cases, the merging will be explained to the athletes and will be announced during the introduction of the athletes at the starting line. Awards will be presented as the original divisions.
 - For races 1500 meters and longer, all athletes will start at the same time regardless of divisioning and awards will be presented as their original divisions. If an uncommonly large number of competitors are entered in one of these longer events, the group of competitors may be split into two group starts at the discretion of the officials.

- Such combining of divisions may also occur with some shorter races at the discretion of the Starter, the Clerk of Course or the Competition Director.

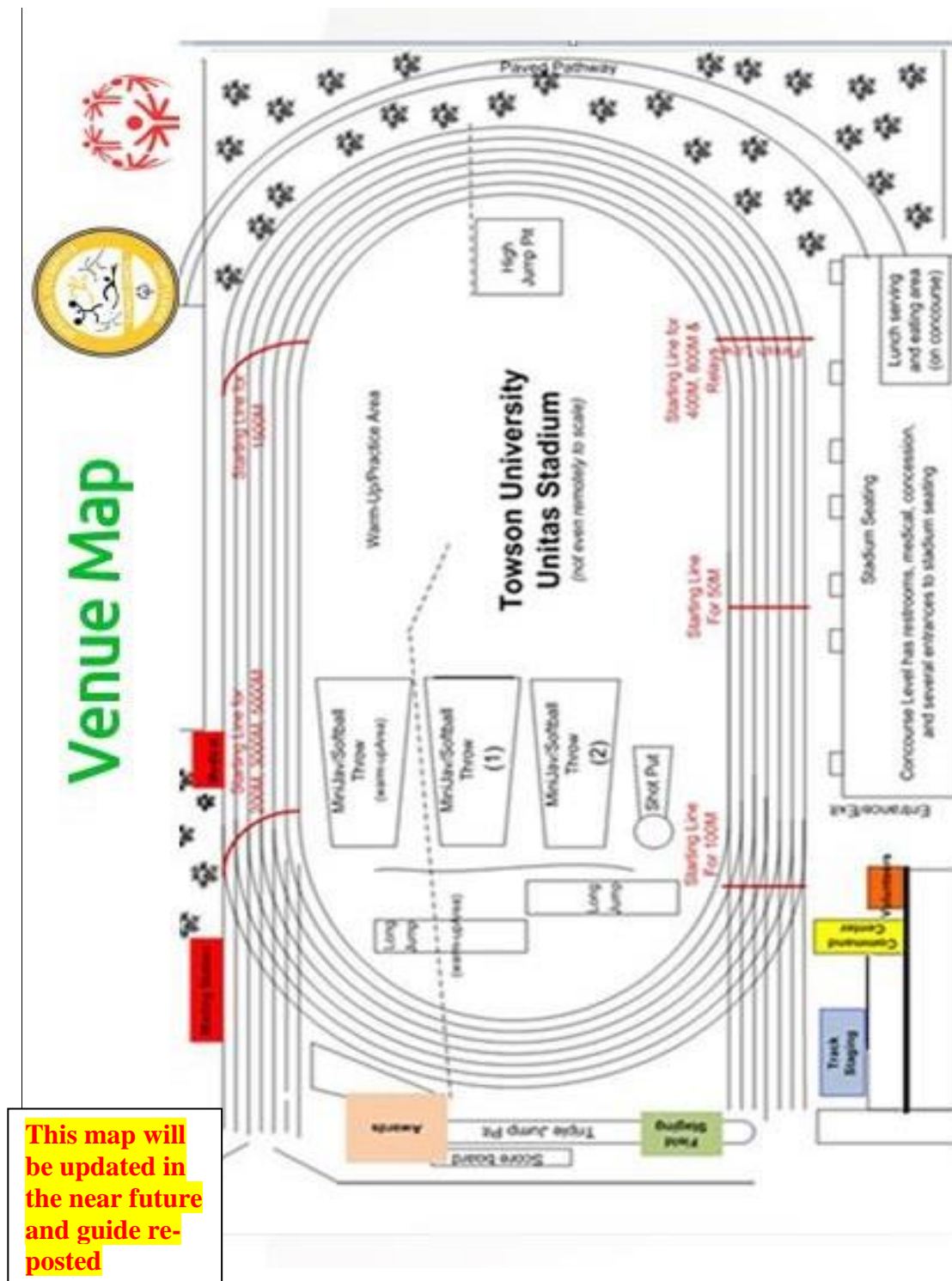
Field Events

- Implements
 - Special Olympics Maryland will provide all implements for field events to ensure consistency of weights and measures. Competitors will not be permitted to compete using their own shots, mini-javelins, softballs and/or tennis balls.
- High Jump
 - The bar will start at 1 M and will be raised in 4 cm increments until there is a single competitor remaining. Competitors shall take off from one foot. Competitors shall not dive forward over the bar or take off from two feet. Competitors will be disqualified for performing either a dive or two-foot take off during either practice or competition.
 - High Jump and Pentathlon High Jump competitors will compete in a single flight with awards/scores determined separately.
- Shot Put
 - Coaches should be sure that athletes have trained with, and had entry scores based on, the proper weight shot for their age/gender. Please refer to the Special Olympics rules for the correct weights.
 - At the 2023 Summer Games, women 8-11 years old and athletes who use wheelchairs will use a shot weighing 2 kilograms or 4.4 pounds.
 - Note: Athletes who use wheelchairs may either enter the Wheelchair Shot Put (using a weight of 2 kilograms or 4.4 pounds) or may enter the appropriate shot put event above using the weight shot designated for that gender/age group.
- Long Jump (Running)
 - In the long jump, an athlete must be able to jump at least one meter, which is the minimum distance between the toe-board and the sand pit. Prior to the start of each day's competition, athletes and coaches may go to the appropriate pit/runway and leave marks off of the runway for the start of the

athlete's approach. Such marks must conform to USATF rules. A single runway shall be used for all long jump divisions.

- Mini-Javelin
 - The mini-javelin must be held by the grip with one hand only. It shall be thrown over the shoulder or upper part of the throwing arm and may not be slung or hurled (underhand/ sidearm throw). At no time may the competitor turn completely around so that his/her back is towards the throwing area. The mini-javelin must land tip first within the sector in order to be measured.
- Pentathlon
 - Pentathlon competitors will compete in the 100 M Race, the Long Jump, and the Shot Put on Saturday. They will compete in the High Jump and the 800 M Race on Sunday. Pentathlon athletes will be divisioned based on their overall score in all five events. They will contest the pentathlon track events against the other pentathlon athletes in their overall pentathlon division (regardless of their time in the individual racing events). They will contest all pentathlon field events as a group (all pentathlon athletes together).
 - Pentathlon competitors will be presented awards based on their overall score for all five events and will not receive awards for the individual events included in the pentathlon.

Athletics Venue Map



This map will be updated in the near future and guide re-posted

Athletics *TENTATIVE* Competition Schedule

Friday June 23, 2023

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Coaches Meeting - *TBD*

Saturday June 24, 2023

- 3,000M Run
- 800M Run
- 800M Walk
- 200M Run
- 50M Run
- 50M Walk
- 25M Run
- 25M Walk
- All Assisted Walks and Wheelchair Races 50M and shorter
- 4x200M Relay
- Shot Put - Men
- Shot Put - Women
- Softball Throw
- Tennis Ball Throw
- Standing Long Jump
- Pentathlon 100M Run
- Pentathlon Long Jump
- Pentathlon Shot Put

Sunday June 25, 2023

- 5,000M Run
- 1,500M Run
- 400M Run
- 400M Walk
- 400M Wheelchair Race
- 110M Hurdles (men)
- 100M Hurdles (women)
- 100M Run
- 100M Walk
- 100M Wheelchair Race
- 4x100M Relay
- 4x400M Relay
- Long Jump
- Mini-Jav
- High Jump
- Pentathlon High Jump
- Pentathlon 800M Run

Scheduled events are based on participation at the 2022 SOMD Summer Games. If needed, the schedule will be adjusted to reflect the 2023 entries. Other official events will be added to the final schedule if athletes are entered in the events for the 2023 Summer Games. ***This schedule is tentative and subject to change.***

Bocce Information



BOCCE

Competition Dates: Saturday June 24 - Sunday June 25, 2023

Time of Competition: Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Burdick Field, Towson University

Competition Directors: Ryan Kelchner and Kendall Zeswitz

Head Rules Official(s): Lucio Corsini & Denny Poorman

National Governing Body: Special Olympics Inc.,

www.specialolympics.org

Anticipated Participants: 275 Athletes and Unified® Teammates

Entries: Athletes may enter Singles competition and Doubles (Traditional or Unified®). Unified® Teammates may enter Unified® Doubles. There is also an opportunity for athletes to enter Half-court Bocce. 4-Person Team competition is offered for both Traditional and Unified®.

Spectators: Burdick Field will feature a standing spectator area, as well as limited bleacher seating. Lawn chairs and tents are permitted outside of the field on the grass patch between the field and concrete area as well as the grass area near the University Union Garage. Spectators who cannot abide by these regulations will be asked to leave the grass area.

Events Offered:

- Singles
- Half-Court Singles
- Doubles
- Unified® Doubles
- 4-Person Team (Traditional and Unified®)

Bocce Rules of Competition:

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall govern all Special Olympics Bocce Competitions at the Summer Games. As an international sports organization, Special Olympics has developed these rules based upon the International Bocce Association. However, SOI is the official National Governing Body.

Bocce Rules Committee:

- Kendall Zeswitz - Venue Director
- George Herghenhahn - Assistant Venue Director
- Lucio Corsini - Rules Official
- TBD - Coach
- TBD - Athlete

Bocce Rules of Competition:

Complete, detailed rules of competition can be obtained through links on the SOMD Bocce Coach Resource Page (<https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/bocce/>).

General Competition Rules and Information

- Competitors are required to wear appropriate competition attire defined as follows:
 - Long pants or shorts (golf or tennis shorts)
 - Attire that is not permitted includes (but is not limited to) jeans, running or athletic shorts, or “short” shorts, defined as greater than three (3) inches above the kneecap.
 - Athletic shoes that do not damage or harm the playing surface are required.
 - Hats are permissible, provided they do not include sponsorship or corporate logos.
 - A collared shirt is required for competition.
- Players will be divisioned according to the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules. Players will be divisioned based upon age, gender, and primarily ability. Some age groups and genders may be combined to offer the best competition opportunities for the competitors.
- In accordance with Special Olympics rules, Unified® teams will be divisioned with other Unified® teams.

- Only certified and credentialed head coaches may file protests. All protests must be filed within 15 minutes of the completion of the protested game. Protests must be submitted to the Competition/Venue Director. Protests may be appealed by the Head of Delegation to the Games Rules Committee.
- Athletes may enter two events; Singles or Half-Court plus either Doubles or 4-Person Team.
- Unified® teammates may enter one event - either Unified® Doubles or Unified® (4-person) Teams.
- Coaches are not permitted on the courts.
- Once the official (match) clock has started, NO coaching or instructional assistance is permitted. This rule applies to coaches and spectators/families. Teammates may confer with one another prior to stepping onto the court. Encouragement and cheering are permissible and encouraged.
- Only competing athletes, Unified® teammates, and designated volunteers are allowed on the courts. A warning will be issued for the first offense; further offenses will be subject to discipline by the Competition Committee.
- A competitor can grip the ball by placing the hand (one hand, or two hands) over or under the ball as long as the ball delivery is of an underhand style. An underhand delivery is defined as releasing the ball below the waist.
- All balls thrown that finish inside the court are in play. This includes the ones hitting the backboard and missing any balls, including the pallina.
- If the first competitor throws the pallina so that it stops before the 30-foot line or stops beyond the 50-foot line or stops next to the backboard, the player has two additional attempts to legally establish the target.
- If the competitor still does not legally establish the target, the opponent has one attempt to do so.
- If the opponent fails to establish the target, the official places the pallina at the center of the 40-foot line. The original thrower then establishes the first point.
- If the pallina goes out of bounds, the following occurs:
 - The frame is over.
 - The balls are returned to the same side.
 - A new frame is started.

- All measurements are taken from the foremost side of the bocce ball to the center top of the pallina.
- Foul lines will be enforced. One's foot may not touch the line whatsoever.
- Half-court Singles
 - Half-Court Singles Competition is intended for athletes with fundamental abilities who cannot toss the bocce balls or pallina 20 feet or more and typically have an assessment score of 700 or higher. This is a Singles event only. Doubles & 4-Person Team competition will be offered exclusively on the 60-ft court.
 - This event will be played on a 12ft x 30ft court. Sidelines should be along the entire length of the court. The end-line will be the (regulation) 30ft (or half-court line) and be marked with chalk or marking paint.
 - The court - There will be no centerline in half court, so the pallina can end up anywhere on the court.
 - Athletes will always throw from only one direction in half-court bocce.
 - Should the "three attempt rule" need to be employed in half-court bocce, then the pallina will be placed 20ft from the throwing line in the center of the court (equidistant from each sideline).
 - The half-court game will be played according to the Special Olympics Maryland rules except where noted above.
- Doubles and 4-Person Teams (*No Entrants for 2022 for 4-Person Teams*):
 - Athletes and Unified® teammates will roll from the same end. Any teammate can roll the ball at any interval (two in a row or alternating throws). There will be walking back and forth after each frame.
 - Note: In Singles competition, competitors will walk from end to end after both finish their throws.
- Foul lines will be enforced.
- Competition Schedule Adjustments:
 - Due to the number of athletes and teams, all game time limits will be enforced at 25 minutes.

- If the score is not achieved before the time limit, the individual or the team ahead at the end of 25 minutes will be declared the winner.
- Game times are subject to change following registration and alternate activation; time of match will not change once the schedule is published.

Alternates

When a player is scratched from Doubles or Team competition, an athlete may be activated from the alternate status provided that player:

- Was registered as an alternate for that Delegation and that event.
- Is actively registered in other events within that sport - not strictly as an alternate.
- A single athlete /Unified® teammate may serve as an alternate for multiple teams.
- Alternates may only replace a person of “like role”, meaning an athlete activated in place for an athlete; Unified® teammate for a Unified® teammate.

In the event that one player on a doubles squad has scratched and no alternate athlete/Unified® teammate can be activated, the team or doubles squad may compete with the existing player(s) minus the balls of the absent player.

Substitutions

Except due to a medical emergency, as provided in the SOI Bocce Rules under Section C.4.c, substitution during a game will not be allowed at the 2022 Summer Games. Approval, under this rule, will be given by the Venue Directors only and prior to the substitution.

Coaches Meetings

The coaches' online Pre-Competition webinar was (will be) held on Tuesday, June 15 , 2023 from 6-7:00pm and a recording of the meeting made available at [SOMD Coaches Resource Page](#).

During the Games, Coaches' Meetings will be held Friday June 23, 2023 (location to be shared at Pre-Comp Webinar of 6/15) at 6:00 -

6:30 p.m., and in the venue awards pavilion on Saturday June 24, 2023 immediately following the end of competition (approximately 4:30 pm). The Head Coach from each team must attend these meetings.

Awards

Awards will be presented immediately following the conclusion of each division's competition in the awards pavilion next to the Student Union. See the Bocce Venue Map for details on this location.

Parking

Parking is available in the University Union Garage for Bocce as well as Towsontown Blvd. parking garage.

Bocce *TENTATIVE* Competition Schedule

Friday June 23, 2023

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Coaches Meeting - *TBD*

Saturday June 24, 2023

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Singles Competition

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Coaches Meeting - *time approximate (immediately following competition) in venue awards tent*

Sunday June 25, 2023

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Doubles Competition
Unified® Doubles Competition
4-Person Team Competition (Traditional and Unified®)

Bocce Venue Map



Cheerleading Information



CHEERLEADING

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Competition Date: | Friday June 23, 2023 |
| Time of Competition: | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. |
| Location: | Towson Center - Towson University |
| Competition Directors: | Anna McCauley & Greg Collins |
| Head Rules Official(s): | Greg Collins |
| National Governing Body: | The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Competitive Cheers shall govern all Special Olympics competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon International Cheer Union (ICU) rules for Special Abilities cheerleading found at: www.cheerunion.org ICU rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Competitive Cheer or Article I. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Competitive Cheer and SOI Article 1 shall apply. |
| Anticipated Participants: | 13 Teams - 140 Competitors |
| Entries: | Athletes may participate in two events one from Event Group One and one from Event Group Two |
| Spectators: | The Towson Center at Towson University will feature over 500 seats for spectators during the competition. |

Events Offered:

- Individual Skills Competition
- Traditional Team Competition
- Unified® Team Competition
- POM (Traditional and Unified®)
- Hip Hop (Traditional and Unified®)

Cheerleading Sports Rules Committee:

- Anna McCauley-Competition Director
- Greg Collins - Assistant Competition Director
- TBD - Certified Panel Judge
- TBD - Coach
- TBD - Athlete

Cheerleading Rules of Competition

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Competitive Cheers shall govern all Special Olympics competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon International Cheer Union (ICU) rules for Special Abilities cheerleading found at www.cheerunion.org . ICU rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Competitive Cheer or Article I. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Competitive Cheer and SOI Article 1 shall apply.

General Competition Rules and Information -

- Athletes may compete in a total of two events of which only one selection may be from category one events/divisions and only one may be from category two. By way of example, an Athlete may compete on one squad registered in the Intermediate Division and on one squad registered in POM.

All practice sessions during the day of competition must be supervised by a Coach and held only in designated locations specified. Athletes are prohibited from practicing skills on concrete, asphalt, or any other hard, uncovered surfaces, wet surfaces, uneven surfaces

and surfaces with obstructions. If teams are encountered practicing routines in undesignated locations may be disqualified.

Timing of Routine

- Overall routine time subject to event organizer
- Routine time is two minutes, thirty seconds (2:30) for **ALL DIVISIONS, exception Skills competition. Skills will have a time limit of one minute 30 seconds (1:30)**
- Cheerleading Team Cheer Routine
 - Competition routine shall include both a cheer portion and music portion.
 - Cheer portion **minimum** is thirty (30) seconds
 - Can be placed in the beginning or middle of routine
 - Maximum music time is two minutes (2:00).
- Performance Cheer Routine
 - Hip Hop; Freestyle Pom
 - Music portion two minutes, thirty seconds (2:30)

Safety Rules & Regulations

- All athletes must always be supervised during the competition by a SOMD certified Coach and/or certified SOMD General Volunteer.
- Coaches must require proficiency before skill progressions.
 - All skills allowed for at a particular level includes all skills allowed in the preceding levels.
- All athletes, coaches and volunteers must follow the Special Olympics “Codes of Conduct”.
- All practice sessions during the day of competition must be supervised by a Coach and held only in designated locations specified. Athletes are prohibited from practicing skills on concrete, asphalt, or any other hard, uncovered surfaces, wet surfaces, uneven surfaces and surfaces with obstructions. If teams are encountered practicing routines in undesignated locations may be disqualified.
- Required spotters for all skills must be your own team’s members and be trained in proper spotting techniques
 - ICU Rules states, “All Stunts and Pyramids - at prep level or above will require the spot of a Coach or Assistant” and does not specify an age requirement.

- SOMD State Competition requires that “All Stunts and Pyramids” at waist level or above will require the spot by a SOMD certified Coach and/or certified SOMD Sport Volunteer, 18 years of age or older.
 - All spotters shall be dressed in contrasting attire compared to the Athletes, so it is clear to the judges who are the athletes and shall wear athletic shoes and shall not wear any jewelry for the protection of the athletes
- Shoes
 - Cheerleading - soft-soled shoes must be worn while competing. No dance shoes/boots, and/or gymnastic slippers allowed.
 - Performance Cheer - shoes must be worn during the competition. Performing in barefoot, in socks and/or footed tights, etc. is prohibited.
- Jewelry
 - Decisions on prohibited jewelry at competitions will be made at the sole discretion of the competition director or his/her designee.
 - Cheerleading - jewelry is not allowed. Jewelry must be removed and may not be taped over.
 - Performance Cheer - as part of the costume is allowed. . (Clarification: safety of the athlete must be considered). Acceptable jewelry includes small post stud earrings (in ear lobes only), chokers without dangling pendants, and hair accessories. Jewelry such as necklaces, hoop/dangling earrings, any piercings in any area other than the ear (belly, tongue and nose rings, etc.) is prohibited.
 - ICU rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Competitive Cheer or Article I. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Competitive Cheer and SOI Article 1 shall apply.
 - Exception: medical ID tags/bracelets.
- Height increasing apparatus are not allowed.
- Props
 - All props must be safely discarded out of harm’s way i.e., throwing a sign across the mat, stepping on poms is not allowed and may result safety deduction.
 - Cheerleading
 - ICU allows additional items as props.

- However, the SOMD State Competition will only allow the use of, signs, poms, and megaphones.
- Performance Cheer
 - Handheld props and free-standing props in all categories are not allowed. No large free “standing props” are allowed. Examples: Chairs, stools, stairs, ladders etc.
- Support, braces and soft casts that are unaltered from the manufacture’s original design do not require additional padding. If altered the appropriately padded material must be such that it protects both the athlete and fellow athletes from injury.
- Up to three (3) coaches and/or sport volunteer are allowed to signal from the front of the mat and may not obstruct the view of the judges.
 - Though ICU rules allow for an unlimited number of Assistants around the perimeter of the floor in a squat position. This will not be allowed for the SOMD State Competition.
- Make up the team must remain the same throughout the routine.

Unified Division

- Team competing in this category will follow the Unified Sports Competitive Model. The ratio of athletes to Unified teammates must be 1:1. In the event of an odd-numbered team, there must be one less Unified teammate than total number of athletes.

Scoring and Policy for One Squad Division - SOMD Modification

- The squad/individual must score within 20% of the maximum judges points possible (five judges; automatically drop the lowest and highest score) to receive first place. If the squad/individual does not score within 20% of the maximum points possible, second place will be awarded.
- There will be an overall Official Deduction/Violation sheet and a separate judge calculation the deductions. The total deductions/violations will be subtracted from the total judges’ technical scores to establish the squad’s final score.
- All five judges’ sheets will be used to break a tie. The lowest and highest scores will be included in the calculation to establish the squad’s final

Division Requirements

- Introductory
 - No Building
 - No Tumbling
 - Elements Allowed
 - Cheer
 - Dance
 - Jumps

- Beginner (Level 0)
 - **General tumbling**
 - Must originate from and land on the performance surface
 - Tumbling over, under, or through a stunt, individual, or prop is not allowed
 - Tumbling while holding or in contact with any prop is not allowed
 - Drive rolls are not allowed
 - Jumps are not considered a tumbling skill
 - **Standing/Running Tumbling**
 - Skill must involve constant physical contact with the performance surface (block cartwheels, round offs, forward and backward rolls, cartwheels, and handstands are allowed) Front and back walkover and front and back handsprings are not allowed.
 - No tumbling is allowed in immediate combination after a round off
 - **Stunts**
 - All stunts must remain at waist level
 - A spotter is required for each top person above ground level (Ground level is defined as the performance surface)
 - Stunt level - Single leg, 2 leg...
 - Twisting stunts and transitions are not allowed, however rebounding to a prone position (1/2 twist to stomach) is a stunt allowed in the Special Olympics and Unified Beginner Division.
 - During transitions, at least one base must remain in contact with the top person. Exception Leap frogs and leapfrog variations are not allowed in the Special Olympics & Unified Beginner Division.

- Free flipping or assisted flipping stunts and transitions are not allowed
- No stunt, pyramid or individual may move over or under separate stunt, pyramid or individual.
- Single based split catches are not allowed; single based stunts with multiple top persons are not allowed.
- Release moves are not allowed, helicopters, log/barrel rolls are not allowed.
- Inversions are not allowed
- **Dismounts**
 - Only straight pop downs are allowed
 - Dismounts to the performance surface must be assisted by either an original base and/or spotter
 - Straight drops or small hop offs from waist level or below to the performance surface require assistance in the Special Olympics and Unified Beginner Division.
 - An athlete may not land on the performance surface from waist level without assistance.
 - Waist level cradles are not allowed
 - Twisting dismounts are not allowed including a $\frac{1}{4}$ turn/rotation
 - No dismounts are allowed from skills above waist in pyramid, no free flipping or assisted flipping dismounts are allowed. Tension drops/rolls of any kind are not allowed
- **Pyramids**
 - Must follow Beginner Divisions “Stunts and Dismounts” rules
 - Top person must receive primary support from a base
- Novice (Level 1)
 - **General tumbling**
 - Must originate from and land on the performance surface (Exception: Rebounding to a prone position (1/2 twist to stomach) in a stunt is allowed)
 - Tumbling over, under, or through a stunt, individual, or prop is not allowed
 - Tumbling while holding or in contact with any prop is not allowed

- Drive rolls are not allowed
- Jumps are not considered a tumbling skill
- **Standing/Running Tumbling**
- Skill must involve constant physical contact with the performance surface (block cartwheels, round offs, forward and backward rolls, front and back walkovers and handstands are allowed) Front and back handsprings are not allowed.
- No tumbling is allowed in immediate combination after a round off
- **Stunts**
 - All stunts must remain at prep level
 - A spotter is required for each top person at prep level and for each top person in a floor stunt.
 - Stunt levels
 - Single leg stunts are only allowed at waist level.
 - Exception: Prep level single legs stunts are allowed if the tope person is connected to someone standing on the performance surface, which must be separate person other than the base(s) or spotter. Connection must be hand/arm to hand/arm and must be made prior to initiating the single leg prep level stunt.
 - Twisting stunts and transitions are allowed up to a total of a $\frac{1}{4}$ twisting rotation by the top person in relation to the performance surface. (Clarifications... & Exceptions)
 - During transitions, at least one base must remain in contact with the top person. Exception Leap frogs and leapfrog variations are not allowed in the Special Olympics & Unified Novice Division
 - Free flipping or assisted flipping stunts and transitions are not allowed
 - No stunt, pyramid or individual may move over or under separate stunt, pyramid or individual. (Clarifications & Exceptions)
 - Single based split catches are not allowed, single based stunts with multiple top persons are not allowed.

- No release moves are allowed other than those specify in “dismounts” of the Special Olympic and Unified Novice Division.
- May not land a prone or inverted position.
- Must return to the original bases, helicopters are not allowed, single full twisting log/barrel roll is not allowed.
- Inversions are not allowed
- **Dismounts**
 - Cradles from single based stunts must have a spotter with at least 1 hand/arm supporting the waist to shoulder region
 - Cradles from multi-based stunts must have 2 catchers and a spotter with at least 1 hand/arm the head and shoulder area through the cradle.
 - Dismounts must return to the original bases(s).
 - Dismounts to performance surface must be assisted by either an original base and/or spotter
 - Straight drops or small hop offs, with no additional skill(s) , from the waist level or below are the only dismounts allowed to the performance surface with out assistance.
 - Only straight pop downs, basic straight cradles are allowed. Twisting dismounts, free flipping or assisted flipping dismounts are not allowed.
- **Pyramids**
 - Must follow the Novice Division “Stunts” and “Dismounts” rules and are allowed up to 2 high
 - Top person must receive primary support from a base
 - Anytime a top person is released by the bases during a pyramid transition, the top person must land in a cradle or must dismount to the performance surface and follow the dismount rules.
 - Two leg stunts must be braced by a top person at prep level or below.
 - Connection must be made prior to initiating the stunt.
 - Top person bracers must have both feet in bases’ hands, unless the top person is in a shoulder sit, flat back, straddle lift or shoulder stand.

- Single leg stunts are a **waist level only**.
- Intermediate (Level 2)
 - **General tumbling**
 - Must originate from and land on the performance surface
 - Tumbling over, under, or through a stunt, individual, or prop is not allowed
 - Tumbling while holding or in contact with any prop is not allowed
 - **Drive rolls are not allowed for SOMD competition though allowed per the ICU Rules.**
 - Jumps are not considered a tumbling skill
 - **Standing**
 - Flips and aerials are not allowed
 - Series front and back handsprings are not allowed.
 - No twisting while airborne
 - Jumps skills in immediate combination with handspring(s) is not allowed
 - **Running Tumbling**
 - Flips and aerials are not allowed
 - Series front and back handsprings are allowed
 - No twisting while airborne.
 - **Stunts**
 - A spotter is required for each top person above prep level and floor stunts.
 - Single leg stunts above prep level are not allowed.
 - Twisting stunts and transitions are allowed up to a total of a ½ twisting rotation by the top person in relation to the performing surface.
 - During transitions, at least one base must remain in contact with the other top person.
 - Free flipping or assisted flipping stunts and transitions are not allowed.
 - No stunt, pyramid or individual may move over or under another separate stunt, pyramid or individual.
 - Single based split catches are not allowed.
 - Single based stunts with multiple top persons are not allowed

- No release moves are allowed other than those allowed in the Intermediate “Dismounts” and “Tosses”.
- Release moves may not land in a prone or inverted positions
- Release moves must return to original bases.
- Release moves from inverted to no-inverted body positions is not allowed.
- Transitions from ground level inversions to non-inverted positions area allowed. No other inversions are allowed.
- Bases may not due backbends and or be inverted at any time.
- **Pyramids**
 - Must follow Special Abilities Intermediate Division “Stunts” and Dismounts” rules and are allowed up to 2 high.
 - Top persons must receive primary support from a base
 - Extended stunts may not brace or be braced by any other extended stunt(s)
 - Extended single-leg stunts:
 - Extended single-leg stunts **must be braced** by at least one (1) top person at prep level or below with hand-arm connection only. The hand-arm connection of the top person **must be, and must remain, connected to the hand-arm of the bracer.**
 - The connection **must be** made prior to initiating the extended single leg stunt.
 - Prep level top persons must have both feet in the bases’ hands.
 - Exception: Prep level top persons do not have to have both feet in the bases’ hands if the top person is in a shoulder sit, flat back, straddle lift or shoulder stand.
- **Dismounts**
 - Cradles
 - Single base stunts must have a spotter with at least 1 hand/arm supporting the supporting the waist to shoulder region.
 - Multi-based stunts must have 2 catchers and a spotter

- Must return to the original base(s)
 - Dismounts to the performance surface must be assisted by either an original base and/or spotter.
 - Straight drops or small hop offs, with no additional skill(s), from the waist level or below are the only dismounts allowed to the performance surface without assistance.
- Only straight pop downs, basic straight cradles and ¼ turns are allowed. Twisting dismounts exceeding ¼ turn/rotation are not allowed. All other positions/additional skills are not allowed.
- Cradles from extended single-leg stunts in pyramids are allowed
- No free flipping or assisted flipping dismounts are allowed.
- Top persons in dismounts may not come in contact with each other while released from the bases.
- Tension drops/rolls of any kind are not allowed.

Coaches Meetings

The Coaches' online Pre-Competition webinar was (will be) held on Wednesday, June 14th from 7-8:00pm and a recording of the meeting will be available at [SOMD Coaches Resource Page](#). During the Games, a Coaches' Meeting will be held on Friday, June 23, 2023 at the Towson Center at **9:40 a.m.**

Awards

Awards will be presented immediately following the competition.

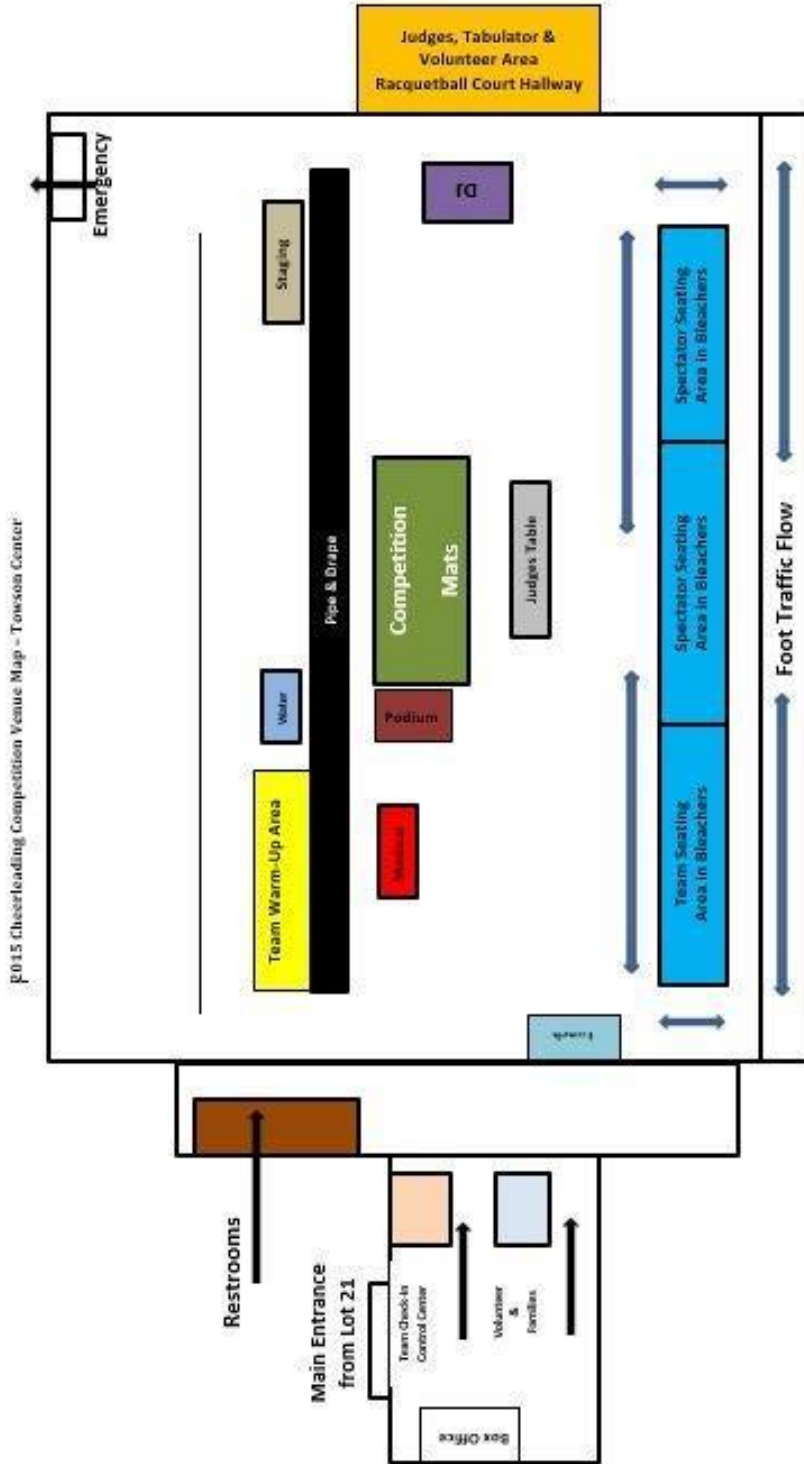
Cheerleading *TENTATIVE* Competition Schedule

Friday June 23, 2023

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 09:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Team Check-In - Towson Center - Lobby |
| 09:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Judges Meeting - Officials Hospitality Room |
| 09:40 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Coaches Meeting - Towson Center (mat area) |
| 10:00 a.m. | Team Warm-ups - Towson Center Warm-Up Mats |
| 10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. | Welcoming Ceremony - Towson Center |
| 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Competition - Towson Center |
| 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Lunch - Towson Center |

***Note:** **Competing in Cheerleading and Other Sports**
Athletes and Unified® teammates who compete in Cheerleading may also compete in another sport on Saturday/Sunday if registered by their Area Program. Athletes and Unified teammates who compete in Cheerleading may not compete in any of the swimming events scheduled for Friday competition.

Cheerleading Venue Map



For the safety of all, keep aisles, hallways and stairwells clear and do not block emergency exits

Softball Information



| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Competition Dates: | Saturday, June 24 - Sunday, June 25, 2023 |
| Time of Competition: | <u>Saturday June 24, 2023</u> 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Coaches Meeting 9:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Team Competition 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Individual Skills Competition (ISC) Home Run Derby 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Coaches Meeting (following games) <u>Sunday June 25, 2023</u> 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Team Competition |
| Locations: | Kiwanis Wallas Park, Ellicott City, MD |
| Competition Director: | Tom Baker |
| Head Rules Official(s): | Ralph Eggen - Umpire In-Chief |
| National Governing Body: | USA Softball |
| Anticipated Participants: | 17 Teams & 4 Skills Teams 275 Athletes & Unified® Teammates |
| Entries: | Athletes may only participate on one team. |
| Spectators: | Each field has ample spectator viewing areas. Lawn chairs are recommended as some of the fields do not have bleachers at. |
| Events Offered: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual Skills Competition• Traditional Slow-Pitch Team Competition• Unified® Slow-Pitch Team Competition |

Softball Rules of Competition

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules, (available at www.specialolympics.org), shall govern all Special Olympics Softball competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon International Softball Federation (ISF) for slow pitch softball. The National Governing Body for softball is USA Softball. NGB rules shall be employed at these Games except when they are in conflict with Special Olympics Sports Rules. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall apply.

Complete, detailed rules of competition can be obtained on the SOMD Softball Coach Resource Page at <https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/softball/>

Softball Sports Rules Committee

- Tom Baker - Competition Director
- Ralph Eggen - Umpire In-Chief
- Bev Funicelli - USA Softball Certified Umpire
- TBD - Coach
- TBD - Athlete

Divisioning

In accordance with Special Olympics rules, teams will be divisioned based on skill, age, and assessments performed at the qualifiers prior to arriving on site. All teams shall be placed in competitive divisions with other teams based on ability and age according to established Special Olympics divisioning procedures.

Rosters

- The team must be consistent throughout the qualifiers and each member of the team must attend two sanctioned qualifiers.
- Minimum and maximum rosters sizes are indicated for each event in the “Rules of the Game” section.
- Age Groups for team competition (Traditional and Unified®) must be in compliance with the Special Olympics Maryland Team Sport Age Grouping policy:
 - Elementary School Age: 8 - 11 years of age
 - Middle School Age: 12 - 15 years of age
 - High School Age: 16 - 21 years of age
 - Young Adult Age: 22 - 49 years of age
 - Senior Age: 50 years and older
 - Ages are calculated as of Dec. 1st of the current year

Coaches Meeting

The Coaches’ online Pre-Competition webinar was/will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 from 6-7:00pm and a recording of the meeting will be available on the [SOMD Coaches Resource Page](#). During the Games, Coaches’ Meetings will be held Saturday June 24, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. and at 6:30 p.m. (following the last game) at Kiwanis Wallas Park. The head coach from each team must attend these meetings. The Individual Skills Competition coaches must also attend the pre-Competition webinar.

General Competition Rules

- Tournament formats may vary by division and will be appropriate to the number of teams in the division. Tournament formats include round-robin and single-elimination with a play-for-seed round. The team competition schedules and format will be distributed prior to the Games.
- In “play for seed” rounds, should two teams be tied following the preliminary competition round (Saturday), the following tie-breaker scenarios will be used (in order):
 - Head-to-head competition results
 - Total runs scored/runs allowed differential
 - Total runs allowed
- Only certified head coaches may file protests. All protests must be filed within 30 minutes of the completion of the protested game.

Protests must be submitted to the Competition Director. Protests may be appealed to the Games Rules Committee.

- The 5-run maximum inning rule will not be in effect or applied (both Unified® and Traditional).
- Each team should be at their field fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start of their game. The head coach is responsible for submitting their team's Line-up Card to the appropriate Scorer's Table ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled game time. Line-up Cards are to be submitted to the Scorer's Table at the field on which their game is to be played. Line-up cards must be submitted for all games.
- A run-ahead rule will be in effect for any and all SOMD Softball games (both Unified® and Traditional) at the 2023 Summer Games. The run-ahead rule will be used as follows: fifteen (15) runs after four (4) innings or twelve (12) runs after five (5) innings.
- All batters (both Unified® and Traditional) begin with a count of zero balls and zero strikes (0-0), and if a player has two fouls, the next foul will be considered strike three and the player will be called "out".
- The pitching rubber will be placed at the official distance of 50'. Lines will be marked at 46' and 40'. Once a player begins pitching from any one of these distances, he/she must pitch from the distance as long as they remain as the pitcher in that inning. A new pitcher entering the game may choose their distance. The ball must be pitched in an underhand motion and should travel in an arc that is no less than 1.83 meters (6 feet) and no greater than 3.048 meters (10 feet).
- The scoring plate will be used (in both Unified® and Traditional team competition) at the Summer Games.
- A team shall have no more than one registered head coach and three assistant coaches/ Sport Volunteers (four total coaches/Sport Volunteers per Unified® or Traditional team).
- If a coach touches a runner while the ball is still in play, that runner will be declared out.
- Coaches are required to stay within the boundaries of the Coaches' box.
- The use of a courtesy runner will be allowed if needed. A courtesy runner may be substituted for a player who may have health issues once that player earns first base safely. This action does not impact

the substitution rule. The courtesy runner, if used, will be that individual who was the last player to make an out. (If no outs have been made during the current inning, the batter who made the last out in the prior inning shall act as the courtesy runner.)

- Substitutions will be permitted as NGB and Special Olympics Softball Rules allow. If a player is available, re-entries will be allowed on an unlimited basis should an injury or medical emergency require a substitution.
- A regulation game shall consist of seven innings. No new inning may be started after one hour and fifteen minutes following the start of the game. Time allotments are subject to change due to schedule restrictions. If the time limit is reached during the middle of an inning, the game will continue until that inning is complete. If teams are tied at the completion of the duration, the teams will continue to play complete innings until a winner is determined.
- Once the last inning or time limit has been reached, the inning must be completed unless the home team is ahead at the bottom half of the inning.
- The tie-breaker procedure will begin at the top of the eighth inning in an extra-inning game. At the top of the eighth inning and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half-inning being placed on second base. The player who is running can be substituted in accordance with the substitution rules. Note: If an incorrect runner in the line-up is placed on second base, this error may be corrected as soon as it is noticed. There is no penalty.
- An appeal to a play may be requested by a player or coach. The appeal must be made before the next pitch. Examples of when an appeal can be requested include batting out of order, a runner leaving a base early, or a runner missing a base.
- Teams must report to the competition field fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start of each game. If a team is not at the field and ready to play ten (10) minutes after the scheduled start, the game will be forfeited. Coaches are required to check-in with the Softball Control Center to affirm revisions to the game schedule.

Individual Skills Competition

Athletes will complete the four skills as outlined in the Special Olympics Summer Sports Rules - Softball. These skills are:

- Base Running
- Throwing
- Hitting
- Fielding

Athletes will participate in a preliminary and final round. Divisioning for the preliminary round will use the qualification score provided during registration (which shall be the best score recorded during the training season). Athletes will earn a preliminary round total score by adding together the scores achieved in each of the four events which comprise the Individual Skills Competition (ISC).

Total scores from the preliminary round will be used to establish the divisions for the final round of competition. The total score from the final round of competition will determine the award placement.

Athletes registered for Individual Skills Competition must compete in the preliminary round to be eligible to compete in the final round.

Traditional Team Competition

Quality participation is predicated upon the application of the Principle of Meaningful Involvement for all players. If any aspect of the Principle of Meaningful Involvement is not being followed, a warning and explanation will be given to the head coach of the team in violation by the Softball Rules Committee. Continued failure to properly adhere to the Principle of Meaningful Involvement will lead to forfeiture of the game. Instances when there is a play at home plate, the principle will be strictly enforced if a defensive player steps in front of the catcher to attempt a put out. If this occurs, the umpire will rule the run to be scored.

- Roster
 - The composition of a team, including substitutes, must have a minimum of 12 players and no more than 16 players. No alternates will be registered for this event. Alternates for teams should be considered rostered players. A team shall

- have no more than one registered head coach and three assistant coaches.
- Teams must start each game with a minimum of ten (10) players or forfeit. The USA Softball Shorthand Rule, which states that a game may finish with one less than required to start, shall be employed. For Unified® Team Competition, the USA Softball shorthanded rule is allowable only if the line-up ratio is favorable to athletes (i.e., there are more athletes than Unified® teammates competing). If the line-up includes more Unified® teammates than athletes the game is forfeited by the short-handed team. The team that is playing shorthanded must list the vacant position last in the batting order and must take an out for the missing player's position in the batting order. If players drop below 9, the game is a forfeit.
 - An extra player, referred to as "EP," is optional, but if one is used, he/she must be made known prior to the start of the game and be listed on the scoring sheet in the regular batting order. If the EP is used, he/she must be used the entire game. Failure to complete the game with the EP results in the forfeiture of the game. The EP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the duration of the game. If an EP is used, all 11 must bat and any 10 may play defense. Defensive positions may be changed, but the batting order must remain the same. The EP may be substituted for at any time. The substituted EP must be a player who has not yet been in the game. The starting EP may re-enter.
- Home Run Rule
A limit of two "over-the-fence" home runs per team per game will be used in all divisions where a fence outlines the entire outfield (foul line to foul line). The following limitations are per team per game:
 - For any in excess, the ball is dead, the batter is out, and no runners can advance. Note: Any fair fly ball touched by a defensive player that clears or has cleared over the fence in fair territory, should be declared a four-base award and shall not be included in the total of over-the-fence home runs. A home run will be charged for any ball hit over the fence whether runs score or not.

- Both athlete and Unified® teammate home runs count toward the Unified® limit.

Unified® Team Competition

Official Special Olympics rules for Traditional Team Competition apply with the following exceptions and clarifications:

- Roster
 - A team's roster shall consist of a proportionate number of Special Olympics athletes and Unified® teammates.
 - A team shall have no more than one registered head coach and three assistant coaches. A person registered as a coach cannot participate in competition as a Unified® teammate.
 - The team must be consistent throughout the qualifiers and each member of the team must attend two sanctioned qualifiers.
 - A team lineup shall consist of ten players. During competition, the line-up shall consist of five athletes and five Unified® teammates at all times. The line-up shall consist of six athletes and five Unified® teammates at all times if the EP (extra player) is used. Failure to complete the game with the EP results in the forfeiture of the game.
- Batting Lineup and Defensive Position Requirements
 - The batting order shall be an alternation of one athlete and one Unified® teammate.
 - During competition, the position requirements are as follows:
 - Two athletes and two Unified® teammates in the infield
 - Two athletes and two Unified® teammates in the outfield
 - One athlete and one Unified® teammate as pitcher and catcher
 - If a team plays shorthanded with either three in the infield or outfield, at least two of the three must be athletes and at least one of the three must be a teammate.
 - Each team shall have an adult non-playing coach responsible for the line-up and conduct of the team during competition. The game shall not start until the coach is present on the team bench.

- All teams shall be placed in competitive divisions with other teams based on ability and age according to established Special Olympics divisioning procedures.

Softball Uniform Requirements

- Jerseys/Uniforms
 - All players on a team shall properly wear uniforms that are alike in color, trim and style. If, because of the blood rule, a change is required and the uniform part does not match, the player will not be penalized.
 - Coaches must be neatly attired and dressed alike or in team uniform and in accordance with the color code of the team.
 - All protective equipment should be worn properly.
 - If a player is requested by the umpire to remove jewelry, illegal shoes or illegal parts of the uniform and they refuse, the player will not be allowed to play.
 - An Arabic number of contrasting color at least six inches (15.24 cm) high must be worn on the back of all uniform shirts. No players on the same team may wear identical numbers. (Numbers 3 and 03 are examples of identical numbers.) Players without numbers will not be permitted to play. If duplicate numbers exist, only one of the players may play at a time. Correct the number in the score book and continue play. There is no penalty for duplicate or wrong numbers; one player will be required to change jerseys, or a substitute must enter for one of the players.
- Hats/Visors
 - Ball caps, visors and headbands are optional for players, and if worn, can be mixed. If more than one type is worn, they all must be of the same color. Handkerchiefs do not qualify as headbands and cannot be worn around the head or neck. Plastic visors are not allowed. Advertisements on hats are not permitted.
- Pants/Sliding Pants
 - All players' pants shall be either all long or all short in style, or may be mixed (long and short) as long as they are alike in color. Players may wear a solid-colored pair of sliding pants. It is not mandatory that all players wear sliding pants, but if more than one player wears them, they must be alike in color

and style. No player may wear ragged, frayed or slit-pant legs on exposed sliding pants.

- Undershirts
 - Players may wear a solid-colored undershirt (it may be white). It is not mandatory that all players wear an undershirt, but if more than one player wears one, they must be alike. No player may wear ragged, frayed or slit sleeves on exposed undershirts.
- Jewelry
 - Exposed jewelry deemed by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so the medical alert information remains visible.
- Shoes
 - Shoes must be worn by all players. A shoe shall be considered official if it is made with either canvas or leather uppers or similar material(s). The soles may be either smooth or have soft or hard rubber cleats. Ordinary metal sole or heel plate may be used if the spikes on the plates do not extend more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch (1.91cm) from the sole or heel of the shoe. Shoes with round metal spikes are illegal. No shoes with detachable cleats that screw on are allowed; however, shoes with detachable cleats that screw into the shoe are allowed.
 - After a warning from the umpire, shall result in the ejection of the player from the game.

Softball Equipment Requirements

- Masks, Body Protectors, Shin Guards and Helmets
 - The catcher must wear a facemask and batter's helmet. Chest and heart protectors are recommended.
 - All batters and base runners must wear a batter's helmet with a chin strap.
 - Batting helmets that are broken, cracked, dented, or that have been illegally altered are prohibited from use.
 - Failure to wear the batting helmet when ordered to do so by the umpire shall cause the player to be ejected from the game. Wearing the helmet improperly or removing the helmet

during a live ball play and judged by the umpire to be a deliberate act shall cause the violator to be declared out immediately. The ball remains alive.

- Calling a runner out for removing a helmet does not remove force play situations. Umpires should use discretion as to the intent of the rule concerning player safety.
- Gloves
 - Must be worn by all player, but a first basemen's trapping mitt may be worn by the catcher and first baseman only. No top lacing, webbing or other device between the thumb and body of the glove or mitt worn by a first baseman or catcher, or a glove worn by any fielder; shall be more than five inches (12.70cm) in length.
- Balls
 - A "restricted flight" ball will be used in all divisions. The (USA Softball Approved) ball with COR .52/300 lbs. compression will be used.
- Bats
 - Bats appearing on the USA Softball "Non-approved Bat List" will be deemed illegal and will not be permitted. A bat inspection will be performed at the beginning of each competition day. All bats are to be approved prior to use. Should a team acquire a new bat, it is the head coach's responsibility to bring it to the attention of the Head Umpire for approval. Umpires and the Softball Rules Committee will follow USA Softball protocol should a violation occur.
 - Players with physical restrictions are permitted to use certain smaller "Little League" bats. In such instances, players are required to use bats smaller than the smallest certified USA Softball bats. These players may also use "Little League" bats that do not exceed the 2 ¼ inch diameter and do not exceed the 34 inch length, and also do not have a marking of -8 or above (a marking of -10 and above would make the bat "hot").
 - Notwithstanding the foregoing, the ISF reserves the right to withhold or withdraw approval of any equipment which, in SOMD's sole determination, significantly changes the character of the game, affects the safety of participants or spectators,

or renders a player's performance more a product of his equipment rather than his individual skill.

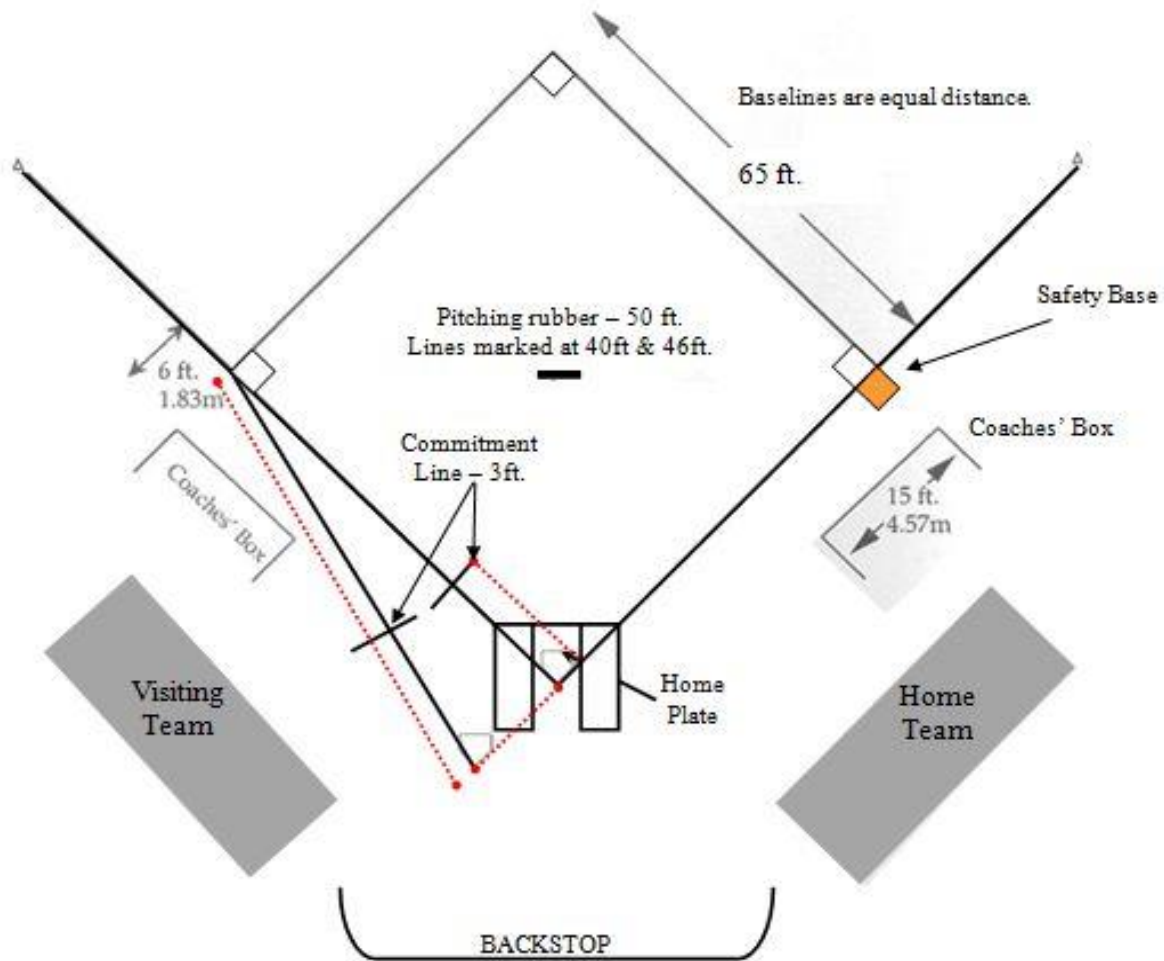
- The 2020 Special Olympics Softball/USA Softball non-approved bat list can be found:
 - <https://static.wbsec.org/assets/cms/documents/448d76e8-df14-f292-1e36-1689694e2a20.pdf>
- Pitching Rubber
 - Pitching rubbers will be placed at the official distance of 50'. Lines will be marked at 46' and 40'. Once the pitcher begins pitching from any one of these distances, he/she must pitch from the distance as long as they remain as the pitcher in that game. A new pitcher entering the game may choose their distance.

Softball Field Regulations

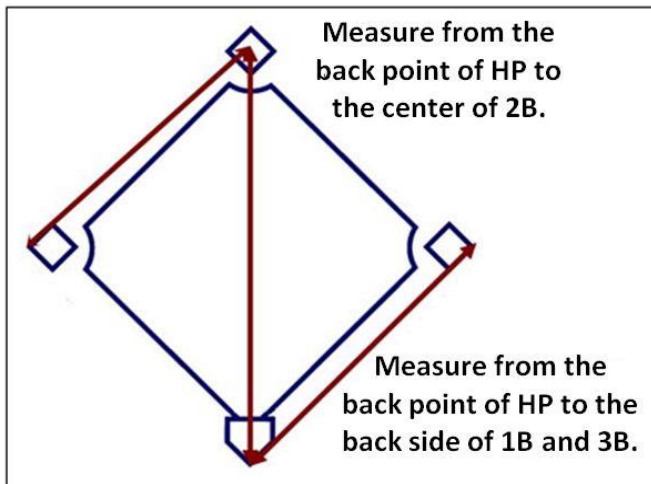
- Safety Base
 - A double base (orange safety base) shall be used at first base. The batter-runner may use the white portion any time a play is not being made at first base. If a play is made at first base but the ball is overthrown or the fielder is pulled off the base by an errant or missed throw, the batter-runner is now allowed to use the white portion of the base. Should the batter-runner overrun first base and return to either portion of the base before an appeal, an appeal is not allowed. The following rules shall be enforced:
 - When a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white portion and the batter-runner the contrasting color (orange) portion of the base.
 - On any force out attempt from the foul side of first base the defense and the batter-runner may use either the white or contrasting color portion of the base.
 - On an errant throw pulling the defense off the white portion of the base into foul ground, the defense and the batter-runner can use either the white or contrasting color portion.
 - On balls hit to the outfield with no play on the batter-runner advancing to first base, the batter-runner may touch the white or contrasting color portion. Should the batter-runner

- return, the runner and defense can use the white or contrasting color portion.
- When tagging up on a fly ball, the white or contrasting color portion of the base may be used.
 - On plays at first base when the batter-runner touches only the white portion and collides with the fielder about to catch a thrown ball while on the white of the base.
 - Effect: Interference, the ball is dead, the batter-runner is out and runners must return to the last base occupied at the time of interference.
 - Commitment Line
 - A three (3) foot Commitment Line shall be marked across and perpendicular to the foul line and placed twenty (20) feet from home plate.
 - A Commitment Line twenty (20) feet from the Scoring Plate will be used. Once a runner's foot touches the ground on or past this line, the runner is committed to advancing to the Scoring Plate. If a runner re-crosses the commitment line he/she will be declared out and the ball remains alive.
 - Scoring Plate
 - The Scoring Plate should be anchored to the ground to prevent slippage and change of position during the game.
 - The Scoring Plate shall be of the same composition and have the same dimensions as home plate, and shall be placed with its back tip 8' feet from the third-base corner of home plate, and its front edge parallel to that of home plate as shown in the diagram.
 - A line shall be drawn from the commitment line to the scoring plate. A foot down on the Scoring Plate prior to the ball being received by a defensive player touching the Home Plate is the same as a foot down on the Home Plate for the purpose of scoring a run.
 - A base runner may be retired at Home Plate in a non-force situation. The defensive player must have possession of the ball while touching any portion of Home Plate after the runner has passed the Commitment Line, but does not yet have a foot down on or over the Scoring Plate.

Softball Field Regulations



Where to Measure the bases?



NOTES:

- Distance from 3rd base to home plate & the scoring plate will be 65ft.
- 3rd base basepath – two baselines will be marked. One baseline will extend from 3rd base to home plate; the other will extend from 3rd base to the scoring plate. Both basepaths will measure 65ft.
- Commitment line – two (3ft.) commitment lines will be marked. The lines will measure 8ft. from the back corner of respectively aligned plate.
- The distance from the back corner of home plate to the back corner of the scoring plate will be 8ft.

Softball Venue Map - Kiwanis Wallas Park



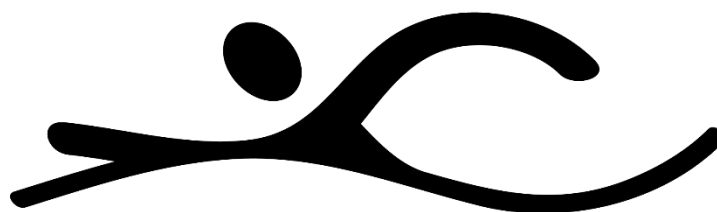
Softball *TENATIVE* Competition ScheduleSaturday June 24, 2023

- 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Round Robin Competition
Kiwanis Wallas Park, Ellicott City, MD
- 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Individual Skills Competition - Preliminary Round
Kiwanis Wallas Park, Ellicott City, MD
- 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Individual Skills Competition - Final Round
Kiwanis Wallas Park, Ellicott City, MD
- 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Home Run Derby
Kiwanis Wallas Park
- 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Coaches Meeting (following final game)
Kiwanis Wallas Park

Sunday June 25, 2023

- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Medal Round Competition
Kiwanis Wallas Park, Ellicott City, MD

Swimming Information



SWIMMING

Competition Dates: Friday, June 23 - Sunday, June 25, 2023

Time of Competition: Friday 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Towson University - Burdick Hall

Competition Director: Neil Coffee

Head Rules Official(s): Rob Dobry - USA Swimming

National Governing Body: USA Swimming - www.usaswimming.org

Anticipated Participants: 300 Athletes and Unified® Teammates

Entries: Athletes may enter a maximum of three individual events and one relay OR two individual events and two relays.

Spectators: Gallery seating is available for 200 with limited accessibility. There is limited seating for individuals with visual impairments, and individuals that use wheelchairs or other walking devices is available on a case-by-case basis.

Note: Coolers are allowed in the space provided within Gym 2. You cannot bring your own chairs into the facility. Chairs will be provided for seating in the Gyms.

Swimming Rules

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules (available at www.specialolympics.org) shall govern all Special Olympics Swimming competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon Federation Internationale de Natacion Amateur (FINA) and the National Governing Body rules for Swimming (USA Swimming). NGB rules shall be employed at these Games except when they are in conflict with Special Olympics Sports Rules. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall apply.

Swimming Sports Rules Committee

- Neil Coffee - Competition Director
- Rob Dobry- Head Swimming Rules Official
- Elizabeth Kramer - Sports Director
- TBD - Coach
- TBD - Athlete

Swimming Rules of Competition:

Complete, detailed rules of competition can be obtained by visiting the link below: <http://www.somd.org/compete/special-olympics-aquatics/>

General Competition Rules

Athletes will be divisioned according to the Official Special Olympics Summer Sports Rules. Athletes will be divisioned based upon age, gender, and ability. Some age groups may be combined to offer the best competition opportunities for the athletes.

In accordance with Special Olympics rules, Unified® relay teams will be divisioned with other Unified® teams. Each Unified® relay team shall consist of two athletes and two teammates who may be assigned to swim in any order.

Only head coaches may file protests. All protests must be filed within 30 minutes of the posting of the results of the protested heat. Protests must be submitted to the Competition Director. Protests may be appealed by the Head of Delegation to the Games Rules Committee.

Uniform Requirements

- **Costume Design**
 - Swimmer's costume must be non-transparent and conform to the current concept of "appropriate". The Referee shall have authority to bar offenders from competition under this rule, until they appear properly costumed.
- **Equipment**
 - No competitor shall be permitted to use or wear any device that may aid his/her speed, buoyancy or endurance during a competition (except flotation races and assisted swim races) such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc. Goggles may be worn.
 - For flotation races, athletes must supply their own flotation devices. Athletes in assisted swim races may use a flotation device. The device must be of the body wrap around type such that if the athlete were to not be able to hold on to the device, the device would still support the athlete with the face out of the water. Flotation devices such as kickboards, inner tubes, or floats that wrap around the arms are not acceptable for use in a flotation event at any time. Athletes without their own proper flotation equipment will not be allowed to compete.

Flotation Events

These events provide meaningful competition for athletes with fundamental skill sets and abilities. No flotation device is allowed for any race other than specified flotation races and assisted swims.

- **Set-up**
 - There should be at least one observer for every two swimmers during competition.
 - The starting line should be marked at the appropriate distance from the finish.
 - It is preferable that certified swimming officials (including the referee, timers and judges) be used in all events.
- **Rules**
 - No flotation device is allowed for any race other than the specified flotation events.

- No coach or assistant will be permitted in the water to provide assistance to an athlete during a flotation race (such assistance is only permitted in the assisted swim).

Assisted Swims

These events provide meaningful competition for athletes with fundamental ability levels. Each athlete is responsible for having their own coach/ assistant with them in the water. The assistant may touch, guide or direct the athlete, but may not support or assist with the athlete's forward movement. The athlete may use a flotation device (see specifications in "equipment"). The assistant may be in the pool or on the deck.

Unassisted Swims

These events provide meaningful competition for athletes with fundamental ability levels. Athletes must swim the full distance with no physical assistance. Coaches may provide verbal encouragement and/or direction from the pool deck for these events.

Kickboard Event

The Swimming Management Team is pleased to continue to offer the 25M Kick Board event. This event provides meaningful competition for athletes with fundamental ability levels.

Relays

A relay card (seen below) for each Relay Team must be submitted to the

AQUATICS RELAY ENTRY

EVENT _____

DIVISION _____ LANE _____

COUNTY _____

SWIMMER 1 _____

SWIMMER 2 _____

SWIMMER 3 _____

SWIMMER 4 _____

HEAD COACH'S SIGNATURE

Head Stager at the time that the event is called for staging. Coaches must use these cards to designate the final team roster and their swimming order. Athletes listed as alternates must be activated according to the appropriate procedures in order to compete in the event. Any Swimming Relay Team competing with an activated alternate will be divisioned based upon the entry time submitted for the original team. All Relay Team members must come from within the same Delegation.

In accordance with Special Olympics rules, Unified® relay teams will be divisioned with other Unified® teams. Each Unified® relay team shall consist of two athletes and two Unified® teammates who may swim in any order.

According to the Special Olympics Rules, for Relay events:

- There shall be four swimmers on each Relay Team.
- Each swimmer shall swim one-fourth the distance of the total relay. No swimmer shall swim more than one leg of any one relay.
- A Relay Team which combines genders to include both male and female athletes shall compete as a male relay.
- Relay swimmers should exit the pool as soon as possible following the competition of their relay leg. Relay swimmers who cannot exit the water immediately may be allowed to remain in the lane until all relays have finished so long as they do not interfere with the other swimmers or the timing equipment. A swimmer remaining in the water should move a short distance away from the end of the pool, close to the lane rope but shall not obstruct a swimmer in another lane. Obstruction of a swimmer in another lane shall cause the team to be disqualified.

Relay Alternates

If an athlete is scratched from a relay team in Swimming, an athlete may be activated from the alternate status if that athlete was registered as an alternate for that relay event and that athlete is actively registered in other events within that sport. This activation may occur any time prior to the staging of the event and must be reported to the Head Stager prior to the staging of the event in which the alternate athlete is competing.

Competition Pool

The Competition Pool is a 25-yard pool. Each Area/County will receive a special credential granting one coach access to a limited section of the Competition Pool deck. Individuals using this credential must remain in the Coaches' Area for the duration of the competition session. This credential is transferable only after (not during) the different competition sessions. These credentials will be distributed by the Venue Director on Saturday morning in the Swimming Control Center. Coaches who fail to remain in the designated Coaches Area will lose the privilege for them or anyone else from their delegation to be on the pool deck and will be moved to the spectator area.

Coaches

Aside from the credentialed coach from each Area/County (who must remain in the designated Coaches' Area for the duration of the competition session), individual coaches will be allowed on the competition pool deck only if an athlete needs assistance in/out of the pool. The need for such assistance must be specified and approved as part of the Summer Games Registration process. If, in the opinion of the Competition Director, a coach is interfering with competition, he/she will be banned from the pool deck.

Coaches Meetings

The Coaches' online Pre-Competition webinar will be held on Wednesday, June 13, 2023 from 6:30-7:30pm and a recording of the meeting will be available on the [SOMD Coaches Resource Page](#). During the Games, a Coaches Meeting will be held on Saturday ten (10) minutes following the conclusion of awards. On Saturday, the Meet Announcer will broadcast a reminder for this meeting at the end of competition. The Head Coach from each Delegation must attend these meetings.

Locker Rooms / "Quieter Room"

Locker rooms are available in the swimming facility for credentialed athletes/teammates only.

There will be access to a "quieter room" located BU0148 - in Burdick Hall for those who need access to the location during the event.

Awards

Awards will be presented at the Awards area, which will be located in Gym 1 closest to Burdick Hall's main lobby, immediately following each race.

Lunches

Lunches will be distributed to coaches, athletes and teammates at Burdick Hall; exact location will be posted and communicated to coaches on Saturday morning at Burdick Hall.

Staging

Staging will occur in Gym 3. Athletes will need to report to pre-staging (back corner of Gym 3) when their division number is posted and/or announced. The division number currently being staged will be marked on a board on around staging. In addition, the meet announcer and pre-staging manager will make announcements as possible. Coaches, parents and spectators will not be permitted in the Staging area (Gym 3), but will be allowed in the delegation area (Gym 1, 2, and Classrooms as assigned) and the awards area. To provide exact information about staging timing, the number of the heat currently being staged will be posted.

Athletes/teammates are not permitted to use any electronic devices (camera, music player, handheld game) from the time they report to Pre-Staging until they have received their awards. Athletes/teammates who cannot adhere to this policy will be removed from staging and are subject to removal from the competition.

Starts

All races will be started with a tone start. Coaches of athletes/teammates requiring the use of a strobe start must have included the request as part of the initial Summer Games Registration process, and proper accommodations can be made. Athletes may either start on the deck or in the water. Athletes who have either tested positive for Atlanto-axial instability (AAI) or who have Down Syndrome and have not been tested for AAI will not be permitted to dive. All athletes will have 60-90 seconds to take their start.

Timing

Events 25 yards and greater will be timed using the electronic Colorado timing system. Events less than 25 yards will be timed using hand-operated stopwatches.

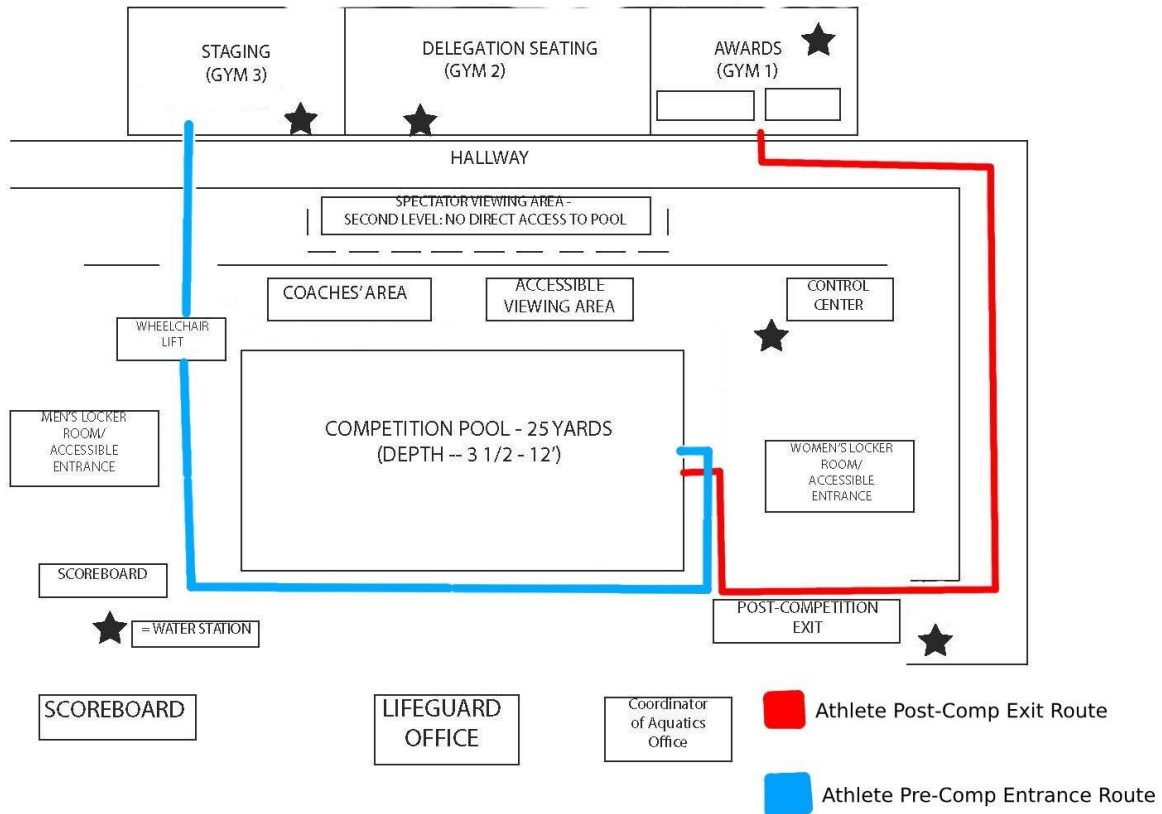
Results

Results will be posted near the spectator viewing gallery and in the Awards area.

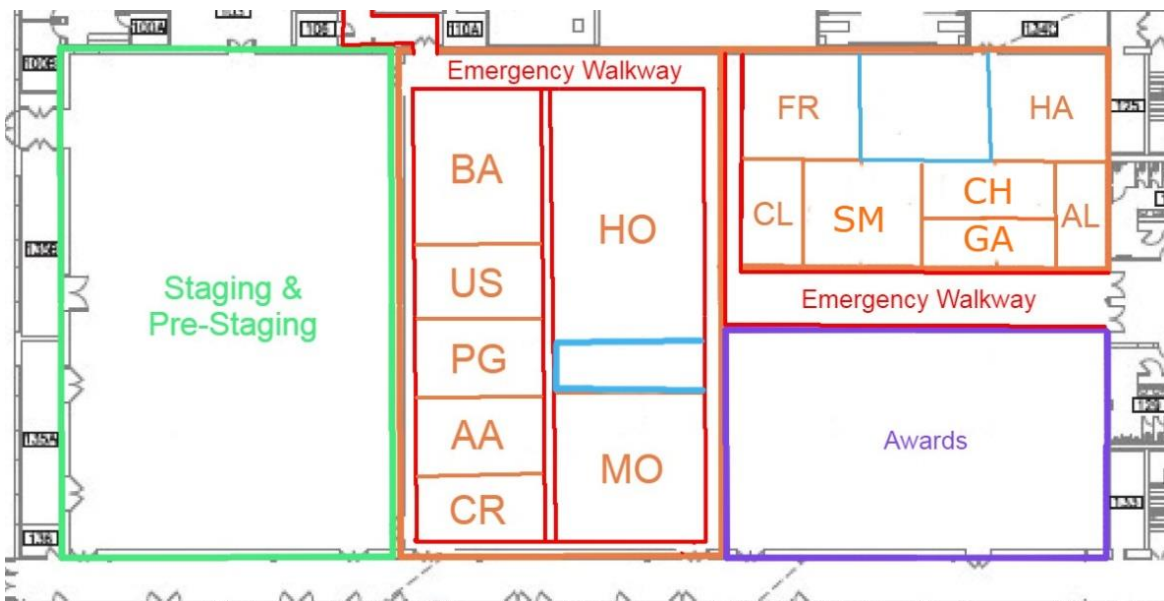
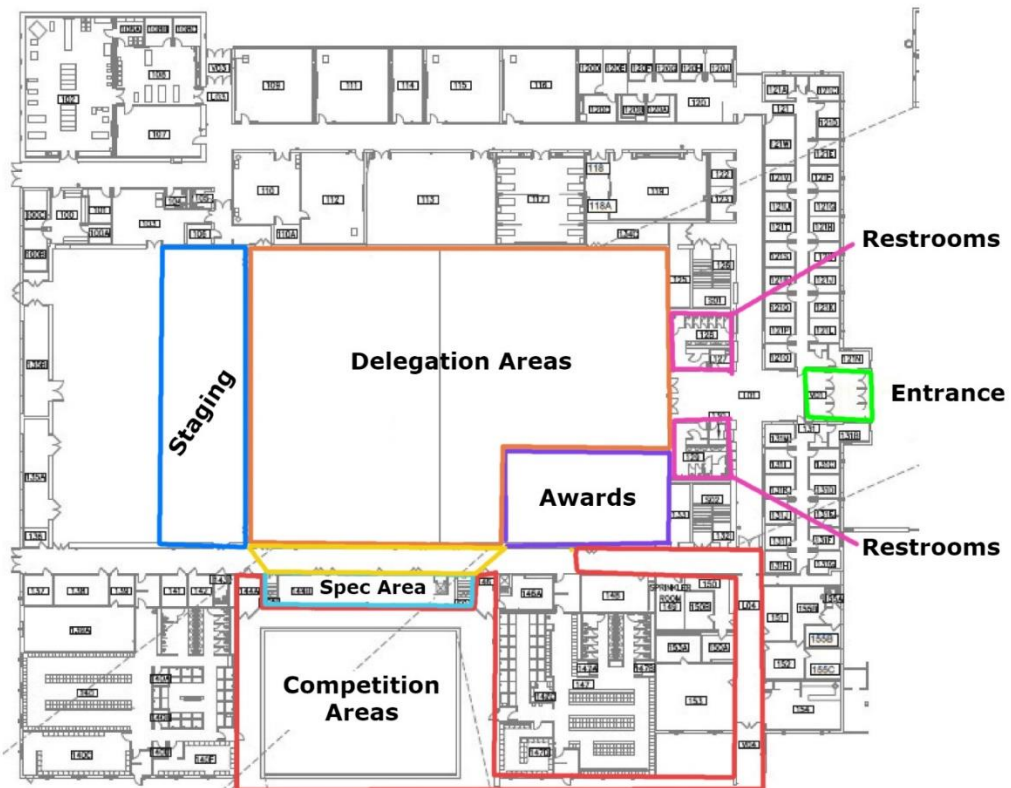
Seating

Seating is available for athletes, teammates, coaches and spectators in the bleachers and gallery area. No spectators will be permitted on the competition pool deck. Spectators who violate these rules may be expelled from the Swimming venue. Seating for spectators will be limited to those who are competing in that particular race - please be courteous to all. Delegation seating is available in Gyms 1, 2, and Classrooms as assigned.

Swimming Venue Map



BURDICK HALL



Swimming *TENTATIVE* Competition Schedule

Friday June 23, 2023

12:45 p.m. - 12:55 p.m.

Coaches Meeting - *Pool Deck*

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Competition (Order of events is listed below)

15 Kickboard
 25 Backstroke
 25 Flotation
 15 Unassisted
 4x25 Freestyle
 15 Assisted
 15 Flotation
 25 Assisted
 25 Freestyle

Saturday June 24, 2023

7:45 a.m. - 7:55 a.m.

Coaches Meeting - *Pool Deck*

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Competition (Order of events is listed below)

Morning Session (8-12:30 p.m.)

800 Freestyle
 100 Breaststroke
 50 Backstroke
 200 Freestyle
 100 Individual Medley

Afternoon Session (1:30-5 p.m.)

25 Butterfly
 200 Individual Medley
 25 Breaststroke
 50 Butterfly
 4x200 Freestyle
 4x50 Medley
 50 Freestyle
 200 Breaststroke
 4x100 Freestyle
 4x25 Medley
 50 Breaststroke
 200 Butterfly
 4x50 Freestyle

Sunday June 25, 2023

7:45 a.m. - 7:55 a.m.

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
below)Coaches Meeting - *Pool Deck*

Competition (Order of events is listed

Morning Session (8-11:30 a.m.)

1500 Freestyle

4x25 Unified® Free

100 Backstroke

4x200 Unified® Freestyle

4x100 Unified® Medley

4x100 Unified® Freestyle

4x25 Unified® Medley

Afternoon Session (1:30-3 p.m.)

400 Freestyle

100 Freestyle

4x50 Unified® Free

200 Backstroke

4x100 Medley

100 Butterfly

400 Individual Medley

4x50 Unified® Medley

Delegation Information

Head of Delegation Responsibilities

The Head of Delegation is the individual directly responsible for the coordination and management of the Program Delegation in matters that affect the entire delegation. This responsibility includes the appropriate conduct of coaches and athletes from the respective Delegation, meals, housing, transportation, entertainment and any other related duties. The HOD should review the Special Olympics mission, philosophy, vision, values and codes of conduct with all coaches, family members, chaperones and athletes/teammates.

Head Coach Responsibilities

The head coach is the individual directly responsible for the coordination and management of those athletes from a Delegation competing in a given sport. He or she is primarily responsible for ensuring that the athletes are at the various competition sites and events and are properly equipped for that sport. Any problems related to a given athlete during the sports competition will be addressed with the head coach. Each Delegation shall have a head coach for each sport who will attend all coaches' meetings. It is the responsibility of head coaches to communicate information presented in the meetings to athletes, teammates and coaches in that sport.

On-Site Registration

Delegation registration will be held in the University Union on the first floor (as you walk into the doors from Burdick Field or the Union Garage on the ground level) from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2023. Heads of Delegation will pick up keys, credentials, registration information, etc. at this time. Delegation t-shirts for the Opening Ceremony will be distributed at the time of registration.

Heads of Delegation are responsible for registering all athletes/teammates and coaches for their Delegation. Individual athletes, teammates and coaches should not be brought to the registration room.

Heads of Delegation must submit a list of scratched athletes, teammates, coaches and chaperones on the delegation-specific scratch form which will be provided in the Head of Delegation registration packet. Scratches will be accepted from the Head of Delegation at the Games Control Center on Friday, June 23, 2023 until 4:00 p.m. Scratches will not be accepted from anyone other than the Head of Delegation.

Delegation will not be charged a registration fee for any scratches reported to SOMD HQ in writing (via email) prior to noon on Monday, June 19, 2023. After that time, Area/County Programs will be charged the full cost for every registered delegation member, whether they actually attend Summer Games or not. Scratches may be reported prior to on-site registration by emailing the appropriate Sports Director or Mike Czarnowsky through your Area/County Leadership.

Heads of Delegation may activate alternates for Bocce teams and relays for the Games on-site no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday June 23, 2023 at the Games Control Center using the delegation-specific alternate activation form which will be provided in the HOD packet. When an alternate activation form is submitted at the Games Control Center, the HOD will be given an initialed copy for their records.

- If an athlete is scratched from Doubles or Team competition, an athlete may be activated from the alternate status provided that athlete:
 - was registered as an alternate for that Delegation and that event;
 - is actively registered in other events within that sport - not as an alternate;
 - a single athlete/Unified® teammate may serve as an alternate for multiple teams;
 - in the event that one player on a doubles squad has scratched and no alternate athlete/Unified® teammate can be activated, the team or doubles squad may compete with the existing player(s) minus the balls of the absent player.

Late Arrivals

Delegations, teams, or athletes arriving after the announced close of registration constitute a late arrival and will be eliminated from

competition, except under exceptional circumstances. Delegations, teams, or athletes arriving after competition has started will be eliminated from competition without exception.

Athletes Not Staying On-Campus (Day-Of Athletes)

Athletes/teammates who are not being housed on campus are responsible for being at their venue at the designated staging time. No competition will be re-scheduled for any athlete/teammate who is late.

Delegation Lists

Each HOD will receive a draft copy of their Delegation list prior to arrival. This list provides a roster of all athletes, Unified® teammates, coaches and chaperones registered for their Delegation. An updated Delegation List will be provided at registration, which will reflect all changes to that point. It is possible that, following registration and the recording of scratches, some competition schedules will change. Significant changes will be reported to the Head of Delegation.

Credentials

Credentials are provided for all registered athletes/teammates and Delegation volunteers. These credentials are to be worn at all times. The only time athletes/teammates should not be wearing their credential is when they are in competition.

Every effort should be made to ensure that credentials are not misplaced. In the event that a replacement is required, the Head of Delegation should report to the Games Control Center in Minnegan Room in Uritas Stadium.

Games Control Center

The Games Control Center will be located in the Minnegan Room in Unitas Stadium (410.704.5527). This will be the main communications center throughout the Summer Games and will be staffed as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Friday, June 23 | 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. |
| Saturday, June 24 | 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. |
| Sunday, June 25 | 6:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. |

For overnight emergencies, the dorm security/staff person can contact emergency personnel as needed. Important phone numbers are listed in the “Important Phone Numbers” section of the *Event Guide*. Please contact all relative SOMD staff and Games Management Team members as soon as possible (after calling emergency services, if needed) to notify them of emergency situations. Overnight medical rooms and phone numbers as well as overnight SOMD Staff contact information will be given to the HOD’s at the meeting on June 16 on campus.

Lost and Found

All items lost or found should be reported to the Games Control Center in the Minnegan Room in Unitas Stadium. SOMD will collect all items found after the Games and hold them for 30 days. After that, all items become the property of SOMD.

Housing Information

- Registration
 - Housing registration will take place during Delegation Registration. At that time, the HOD will receive room keys and meal cards for all registered athletes and coaches. **Please do not mark or write on any keys with permanent markers.**
 - Luggage drop-off zones will be set aside for each dorm. The delegation bus should report to the assigned dorm to drop off athletes/teammates and their luggage. Please adhere to the directions given by the Towson University Staff on duty at each dorm.
 - There will be no nametags for each dorm room indicating who is housed in that room. If your Delegation wishes to make and post their own signs, they may do so using blue painters tape (if other tape is used - the Delegation will be responsible for any and all damages). Tape must be removed before you depart on Sunday.
 - Anyone seen removing screens or placing anything through an open window will be immediately sent home. All occupants of the room will also be sent home.
- Athletes with Mobility Challenges
 - Athletes with mobility challenges (athletes using wheelchairs or using other assistive devices) must not switch rooms. All athletes and coaches requiring accessible housing will be housed in accessible rooms. There is a chance these individuals may not be housed with the other members of the Delegation, depending upon availability.
- Locations
 - Delegations will be housed in the West Village area of campus as well as Residence Towers.
- Room Changes
 - There should be no room changes that are not of an emergency nature once Delegations assign their rooms. Any such changes must be reported to the HOD and then to the Games Control Center. Every effort has been made to accommodate individuals who you identified on your housing forms as requiring accessible housing.
 - Delegations may NOT have anyone not on the approved housing list stay overnight in the dorms. Any delegation who

violates this requirement will have that person(s) removed from the dorms and that delegation will not be eligible for on-site housing at the 2024 Summer Games. HODs must inform all delegation members of this requirement as this will be enforced regardless of who within the delegation allowed that individual to stay overnight.

- Keys
 - Keys will be issued for all rooms assigned to a Delegation. HOD and Coaches should take the appropriate steps to ensure that keys to athlete/teammate rooms are not lost or misplaced. One key for each person assigned to a room will be issued. There will be a charge for each lost key.
- Check-Out
 - All keys for the entire Delegation must be returned by the HOD to the front desk of your dorm by 12:00 p.m. on Sunday June 25, 2023. Keys are NOT to be returned to the Games Control Center.
 - If a Delegation would like to request a late checkout, or store all luggage in a specified room in the dorm until the completion of all competition, please contact the Games Control Center, or make this request during the Head of Delegation meeting on Saturday June 24, 2023.
 - All access/meal cards are to be returned to the front desk of the housing location.
- Medical Needs
 - If a medical situation occurs, contact the front desk or Games Control Center and medical personnel will be dispatched. If the situation is an emergency, please call 911.
- Linen Package
 - The linen packages will be distributed to each room for use during the event. The linens should be placed back in the appropriate room to ensure the proper count is taken per room. Lost linens charges will be assessed to Delegations who do not return the number of linens originally distributed. The linen packing for each person includes:
 - Pillow with case
 - Sheets
 - Towel
 - Soap and cup

- The Games Organizing Committee suggests that Delegations take steps in advance of the Games to bring extra towels, linens, and pillows for Delegates.

Athlete Housing Policy

- The health and safety of all Special Olympics Maryland participants is of paramount importance to Special Olympics Maryland. Arranging housing for overnight events involves the consideration of a variety of factors, including the varying abilities, ages and behaviors of athletes, the availability of housing and the costs associated with overnight accommodations. Athletes should feel that every Special Olympics Maryland event is a safe and positive experience and should not be fearful of other athletes, coaches or volunteers.

Meals and Food Information

- Athletes, Unified® Teammates, Coaches, and Registered Delegates
 - Official Delegates staying on-campus throughout the weekend will be provided dinner on Friday; breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday; breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Athletes/Teammates registered as day-of participants will receive a lunch at their given competition venues.
- Breakfast and Dinner
 - Breakfast and dinner will be served in the West Village Commons Building on the 4th Floor in the Ballrooms. Athletes and coaches will use their dorm access card as a meal card. You must have this card with you to be admitted to breakfast and dinner. Lost meal cards must be reported to the Games Control Center (Minnegan Room, Uitas Stadium).
- Lunch
 - Box lunches will be served on Saturday and Sunday at the competition venues. They will be sorted by team and the coaches will pick up all meals for their teams. Registration packets will include meal tickets to be used for lunch.
 - Note: For Athletics, delegations will report to the designated area on the concourse at Uitas Stadium. Coaches and athletes may enjoy their lunch at the tables at the east end of the concourse.

Meals for Family Members

- Lunches will not be provided for spectators / families during Summer Games.
- Box lunches based upon availability, may be an option for families. However, families are strongly advised that *box lunches may not be available and they should not plan on box lunches being available*. If available, they can be obtained at any of the distribution sites listed above after the needs of delegations and registered volunteers have been met. Family members are also encouraged to support the community by visiting local establishments and sharing information regarding Special Olympics.

Meal Schedule (subject to change)

- Friday Dinner
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
West Village Commons Building, 4th Floor Ballrooms
- Saturday Breakfast
6:00 a.m. - 7:15 a.m. Shift 1 - Swimming and Softball
7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. Shift 2 - Athletics and Bocce
West Village Commons Building, 4th Floor Ballrooms
- Saturday Lunch
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Competition Venues
- Saturday Dinner
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Shift 1 - Athletics and Bocce
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Shift 2 - Swimming and Softball
West Village Commons Building, 4th Floor Ballrooms
- Sunday Breakfast
6:00 a.m. - 7:15 a.m. Shift 1 - Swimming and Softball
7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. Shift 2 - Athletics and Bocce
West Village Commons Building, 4th Floor Ballrooms
- Sunday Lunch
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Competition Venue
- Meal schedules are subject to change, and will be extended if necessary.

Ceremonies & Special Events

- Block Party
 - Delegates, family members, volunteers, and spectators are invited and encouraged to attend the 2023 Summer Games Block Party from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in Lot 6 (behind the SECU Arena). Some local food vendors may be in attendance, providing athletes, family members and spectators the opportunity to purchase food, drink, and souvenirs.
 - All delegation members staying overnight on campus should eat dinner in the dining hall prior to attending the Block Party. Any food available at the Block Party will be for sale, not free.
- Opening Ceremony
 - The Opening Ceremony will take place in Towson University's SECU Arena (located next to the Towson Center and Unitas Stadium). The Opening Ceremony will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 23, 2023 and will end at approximately 9:00 p.m. The Ceremony will include an abbreviated Parade of Athletes, Law Enforcement Torch Run and the Lighting of the Cauldron, National Anthem, Athlete/Coach/Official Oaths and official music. Numerous civic officials are scheduled to be in attendance, including representatives from the American Legion, Knights of Columbus, SOMD Board of Directors, sponsors, and Maryland's State and local law enforcement departments. Delegates should arrive wearing the shirts distributed at Delegation registration.
 - Those representing their delegation in the Parade will line-up in a designated location starting at approximately 6:45 pm in SECU - exact location will be communicated to the HOD. Heads of Delegations and Area Directors will receive specific communications via email, as well as during the HOD meeting on June 22.
- Olympic Park and Victory Dance
 - Olympic Park and the Victory Dance will be held Saturday night in the SECU in Lot 6. The theme of the dance will be "Out of this World". All persons in attendance are encouraged to wear their favorite outfits for the dance! DJ will be

spinning tunes and entertaining those in attendance. See you there!

- Healthy Athletes - *Tentative* Schedule and Locations

- Saturday 11:00am - 6:00pm Towson Univ.
- Sunday 9:00am - 12:00pm (noon) Towson Univ.

- Disciplines Offered (University Union)

- Special Smiles Room 329
- Healthy Hearing Room 323 A&B
- Opening Eyes Room 325 A&B
- Strong Minds Room 321 A&B
- FITFeet Univ. Union Ballroom
- Fun Fitness Univ. Union Ballroom
- Health Promotion Univ. Union Ballroom

- There will be stations and information at the Softball venue as well, details TBD.

- Merchandise

- Merchandise will be available at the times listed below:
 - Friday June 23 at the Cheerleading venue (Towson Center)
 - Friday June 23 - 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (in Lot 6 with the Block Party)
 - Saturday June 24 - 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (in Lot 6 within Olympic Park)

Items will be available, as well as clearance sale prices on both warm and cold weather clothing. Cash and credit card are accepted methods of payment.

Transportation

- Transportation will be provided by a shuttle bus route with designated stops at the sport venues, dorms and other primary stops. Shuttle buses will run on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. A bus schedule will be available at the Head of Delegation Meeting, and presented during the online webinars prior to the Games.
- Towson University shuttle buses have wheelchair lifts. These buses will run Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
- Parking Information:
 - Parking is not allowed in the small “parking area” at Uritas Stadium (actually a loading and unloading area for deliveries, located adjacent to the track across Auburn Drive from Lot 5). Violators will be towed at their own expense.
 - Parking is available in lots 3, 4, 7, 8 and the University Union and Towsontown Blvd. Garage.
 - On the “Lodging, Dining and Burdick side of campus” parking is available at the following locations:
 - University Union Garage
 - Towers Parking Area (adjacent to the Glen Towers)
 - Cross Campus Boulevard (Please check parking meters first)
 - Towsontown Boulevard Garage (roughly 100 yards in front of Burdick Hall)
 - West Village Commons parking garage
 - NOTE: The Shuttle Bus stop for West Village areas, west of the dorms past Towson Run. (“West” is walking away from Osler Drive.)
 - Bus stops are marked on the Towson University Campus map in this *Event Guide*
 - If a bus is crowded, please be patient. There are plenty of buses on each route.
 - Buses that run on campus will allow riders to stand.

Family Information

Family activities planned for this year include our Block Party prior to the Opening Ceremony. Families and guests are invited to enjoy Olympic Park as well.

Games Evaluation

The Summer Games Organizing Committee is constantly looking for ways to improve the Summer Games. The thoughts and opinions of Delegates, spectators, families, and volunteers are invited to be shared through the 2023 Summer Games evaluation survey. To complete the 2023 Summer Games evaluation, please visit the website below:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SG23_Eval

This survey link will be open until 6:00 p.m. on Friday July 20, 2023.

Rain/Inclement Weather Plan

Rain plan actions will only be called by the Games Director, the Competition Director and Venue Directors for Athletics, Bocce, Softball or Swimming. Rain plan actions will not be called unless there are torrential storms throughout the day or thunderstorms where an emergency rain plan will be followed. A light rain will not stop sporting events. Updated schedules will be posted in the Games Control Center and the Venue Control Centers. The rain plan will be as follows:

Friday June 23, 2023

- Block Party
 - Delegates will be escorted directly into SECU Arena and/or the Towson Center and await the Opening Ceremony.

Saturday June 24, 2023 and Sunday June 25, 2023

- Athletics
 - Postponed until rain clears. When rain clears, the schedule will resume at the point at which the postponement was declared. Events will continue in the same order as originally scheduled. Saturday events may possibly be rescheduled for Sunday. Buses will be rerouted to the track to pick up Delegates and deliver them to the dorms. Some events may be canceled due to time constraints.
In case of lightning, all Delegates should report inside of Uinitas Stadium (not the concourse), SECU Arena, or the Towson Center.
- Bocce
 - Postponed until rain clears. Please refer to the Games Control Center for an updated schedule.
In case of lightning, all Delegates should report inside of the University Union - lower level.
- Softball
 - Postponed until rain clears. In case of lightning at Kiwanis Wallas Park, athletes and coaches should report to the shelter areas as directed by the management personnel and wait for the weather to clear or be transported back to the dorms. More information on this evacuation plan will be provided at the Softball Coaches Meeting on Saturday morning, June 24, 2023.

- Swimming
 - If there is thunder/lightning, the pool will be cleared and competition will resume 30 minutes after the last thunder/lightning. Events will continue in the same order as originally scheduled. Saturday events may possibly be rescheduled for Sunday.

In the event of excessive heat, plans will match the “rain plans” noted above and will be implemented on a sport by sport basis.

Emergency Procedures

Emergency fire exit procedures are posted throughout the dorms. Upon arrival, become familiar with these procedures and also instruct athletes/teammates. Please instruct athletes/teammates in case of emergency evacuation to grab a towel and shoes, and leave other belongings behind. Stay off the elevators.

In case of fire in the venue sites, become familiar with the emergency exits and make sure the athletes/teammates know what to do.

At venues where pop up tents are permitted, Special Olympics Maryland and Towson University may require that tents be taken down temporarily or permanently due to wind, weather, and/or other factors. We ask for your quick cooperation to ensure everyone’s safety. Unless very severe weather occurs, tent structures from Special Olympics Maryland will remain standing and appropriate accommodations will be made to ensure athletes have adequate shade.

Missing Athlete Procedure

If at any time an athlete is separated from his/her coach, the following steps should be followed:

- Identify the following basics:
 - Athlete's name
 - Athlete's assigned group
 - Physical description (age, gender, height, weight, race, hair color, attire, distinguishing features)
 - Physical disabilities (wheelchair, cane)
 - Last time and place athlete was seen
 - Next event for athlete
 - Name of person reporting athlete missing
 - Do not give out any information over the radio
- Notify security, SOMD staff or a Games Management Team Member.
- Enlist all available personnel in the immediate area to help conduct an initial search (it helps to have people who know the athlete to help with the search).
- If unable to locate the athlete after the initial search, the Control Center will initiate an "event-wide" announcement of the missing athlete and broader search procedures will ensue.

Once the athlete is located, the HOD should call the Games Control Center to end the search.

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