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**2024**

**Summer Games**

**Coaches Book**

**2024 Summer Games**

**Fact Sheet**

***May 10-12***

**Where:** Fort Jackson

 All Star Gymnastics

 Blythewood High School

 Columbia, South Carolina

**Sports Offered:** Athletics, Aquatics, Masters Bocce,

Under-21 Bowling, Gymnastics, Powerlifting and Softball

 (Traditional and Unified where applicable)

**Who:**  Athletes: 800

Coaches: 150

Families: TBD

Volunteers: 500

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**:

**Friday, May 10**

2:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Registration 2-60 Classroom

4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Athlete Dinner 2-60 Dining Hall

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Family Registration Solomon Center

7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Opening Ceremonies Solomon Center

9:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Coaches Meeting 2-60 Classroom

**Saturday, May 11**

6:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Breakfast 2-60 Dining Hall

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Athletics Blythewood High School

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Softball Hilton Field, Ft. Jackson

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Under 21 Bowling Century Lanes, Ft. Jackson

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Aquatics Knight Pool, Fort Jackson

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Masters Bocce 3-69 PT Field, Ft Jackson

9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Powerlifting SPRC Gym, Fort Jackson

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Gymnastics All Star Gymnastics

11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Lunch Venue Sites

12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Olympic Town/Healthy Athletes 2-60 Battalion

4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Athlete Dinner 2-60 Dining Hall

4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Family Dinner 2-60 Dining Hall

7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Victory Celebration Solomon Center

**Sunday, May 12**

7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Breakfast 2-60 Dining Hall

9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Worship Service Battalion Chapel

**Delegation Registration**

Registration will take place from 2pm – 5:30pm in the 2-60 Classroom. (See Directions Book). The Head of Delegation (HOD) will be the only person allowed to register athletes and coaches. The HOD will pick up all information and materials and MUST present a valid Special Olympics medical for every athlete to complete registration. ***Athletes without medicals will not be allowed to compete.*** ***Scratches must be turned in at registration.***

**All Coaches, Chaperones, Volunteers, Drivers, Unified Partners must present a valid ID during registration to pick up credentials and other registration information.**

**Housing**

Athletes and coaches will be housed at the 2-60. The 2-60 is located on Jackson Blvd. Delegation housing assignments within the 2-60 will be available at Delegation Registration. **Coaches should bring the following things and advise athletes of the need: flip flops/shower shoes and at least one flashlight within a group.**

Non-ambulatory athletes will be housed in special housing on post. Please check in at Delegation Registration for more details. Arrangements must be made ahead of time through the housing registration to obtain one of these rooms.

**Meals**

Saturday lunch will be delivered to the respective sport venues. All other meals will be served in the 2-60 Dining Hall. This is same battalion in which delegations are being housed.

**Medical**

Professional medical staff will be available on a 24-hour schedule for all athletes and coaches attending Games. These professionals will be available at all venues, ceremonies and in the barracks at night. Delegations will be responsible for administering medications to athletes, with medical supervision available upon request. Unfortunately, Fort Jackson has closed their emergency room at the hospital. Anyone needing hospital services will be transported to a Columbia hospital. Please remember to always keep medicals with you. **Should the need arise for 911, please tell operator you are located on Fort Jackson.**

**Law Enforcement Torch Run**

This precursor to our 2024 Summer Games is the culmination of numerous Law Enforcement Torch Run events conducted across the state. The LETR officers will meet near Main Street at 4pm and run to the State House, a short media event will be held followed by officers being bused to Fort Jackson. They will then complete the final leg to the Solomon Center for the Opening Ceremony.

**Parade of Athletes/Opening Ceremonies**

Line-up for the Parade of Athletes will begin at 7:00 pm outside of the Solomon Center. The Parade of Athletes will begin promptly at 7:30pm. Anyone not lined up and ready to go at 7:30 will be left behind and will have to join the end of the parade. This means that you will not be assured a place to sit with your Delegation.

**Coaches Meeting**

The Coaches Meeting will be held Friday at 9:00 pm in the 2-60 Classroom. The Coaches Meeting should be attended by head coaches and HODs. Information from this meeting should then be shared with sports coaches and chaperones.

**Olympic Town**

Olympic Town will be held at the 2-60, inside the 2-60 Classroom and in front of the classroom. Hours for Olympic Town are from 12:00 pm-4:00 pm. Within Olympic Town, booths for souvenirs and food will be open.

**Healthy Athletes**

Healthy Athletes will be in the 2-60 Classroom, within the confines of Olympic Town. This is an opportunity for athletes to receive health and nutrition screenings and information from physicians and clinicians within several medical disciplines***. These screenings are for registered athletes ONLY.***

**Closing Ceremonies/Victory Dance**

The Closing Ceremonies and Victory Dance will be held at the Solomon Center beginning at 7:30 pm and concluding at 9:30 pm. Refreshments will include drinks and fruit.

**Summer Games Inclement Weather Plan**

In the event of severe weather, athletic (track and field) competitions will be suspended for one hour at which time a decision will be made to: A) resume competition as weather permits, or B) move to adaptive competitions inside Blythewood HS. The Aquatics competition will be postponed in the event of severe weather accompanied by lightening. The Softball competition will be suspended for one hour at which time a decision will be made to: A) resume competition as weather permits, or B) move to Coleman Gym for adaptive competition. The Bocce competition will be suspended for one hour at which time a decision will be made to: A) resume competition as weather permits, or B) move to Solomon Center for adaptive competition. Bowling, Powerlifting and Gymnastics will not be affected by inclement weather.

**Language Guidelines:**

Special Olympics South Carolina is a year-round training and competition sports organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Please refer to participants as **athletes**.

**Crisis Communication:**

In the event of a crisis - injury, natural disaster, or act of terrorism - your duty is to stay with the athlete or athletes in your charge and send for help. If approached by the media for a comment on a crisis, do not make a statement. Instead, please tell them that a statement will be made from the Special Olympics South Carolina State Office regarding the matter. Procedure is for the athlete, coach or volunteer that is in crisis to be tended to first. Then, after the crisis team meets, a statement will be made to the media by the public relations department.

To report an injury or suspicious situation, contact Sue Maner (cell 803-237-4231) or Kelly Garrick (cell: 803-237- 4233).

**Questions**

For Questions regarding Summer Games call Special Olympics South Carolina

803-772-1555

Competition………………Kelly Garrick….………………ext. 302

Volunteers and Families…. Anthony Buzzetti……………ext. 305

**Sports Specific Information**

**Honest Effort Rule**

Athletes must participate honestly and with maximum effort in all preliminary and/or final competitions. If there is a discrepancy of greater that 15% between the preliminary competition result and the final result, that individual or team may be subject to disqualification. The sport committee will make decisions concerning this rule. Coaches should support and encourage honest effort on the part of all participants in the spirit of Special Olympics.

**Note:** If a minimum of three competitors do not register for a given event, that event will be dropped from the schedule and those athletes allowed to register in a different event. Ages and sexes may be combined in order to provide quality and meaningful competition.

**All Athletes should report to competition area 30 minutes prior to competition time.**

**Aquatics**

*Venue Information*

Aquatics competition will be held at Knight Pool on Ft. Jackson campus.

*Uniforms/Equipment*

* No jewelry of any kind should be worn, except wedding bands/rings.
* Males - any brief swimsuit made of smooth, quick-drying fabric (nylon, lycra). Gym shorts with waistbands that fit snugly around the waist are permissible.
* Females - any one-piece suit, close fitting and cut not to hinder movements, but substantial enough to stay on athlete’s body.
* A tight-fitting stretch swimmers cap is recommended.
* Swim goggles are encouraged.
* Nose clips are advised for those who have difficulty controlling their breathing or who have sinus problems. Only use when necessary.
* Athletes are responsible for bringing their own towels. Knight Pool will not provide.

*Rules/Points of Interest*

* Only athletes preparing to participate in a scheduled event will be allowed on the pool deck. Coaches, family members and other athletes will not be allowed on the deck.
* Athletes will be staged approximately 15 minutes prior to their heat.
* Special Olympics Sports Rules will govern the aquatics competition.
* Specifically, note the following:
* in the 15 meter unassisted swim they must swim the whole distance (they can't walk); a coach can provide verbal encouragement or direction from the pool deck, they cannot be in the water with their athlete in the flotation race they must swim with a flotation device (kick board, noodle, or wrap around flotation device); someone can be in the water with the athlete in the assisted swim so long as that person does not touch the athlete while in the water/event
* Final competition schedule will be available at Delegation Registration/Coaches Meeting.
* Certified head coaches may only lodge protests within thirty minutes of the completion of the heat in question.

**Athletics**

*Venue Information*

* Track and field competitions will be held at Blythewood High School track and field facilities.

*Uniforms/Equipment*

* No jewelry of any kind should be worn, except wedding bands/rings.
* Comfortable athletic shoes.
* Socks varying length.
* Athletic/gym shorts, t-shirts/sleeveless shirts are required.
* Relay team members should have matching uniforms including, t-shirts/sleeveless shirts and athletic/gym shorts.
* Warm up suits are allowed due to weather as long are non-constricting.

*Rules/Points of Interest*

* Only athletes preparing to participate in a scheduled event will be allowed in the staging area. Coaches, family members and other athletes will not be allowed on the track.
* Athletes should report to the staging area for their event 15 minutes prior to competition.
* Final competition schedule will be available at Delegation Registration/Coaches Meeting.
* Certified head coaches may only lodge protests within thirty minutes of the completion of the heat in question.

**Bocce**

*Venue Information*

* Bocce competition will be held at the Bocce Complex at the intersection of Jackson Blvd and Marion Avenue.
* There will be limited seating. Please bring chairs, blankets to sit on for spectator seating.
* Awards will be given immediately following each shift at the Bocce Awards Plaza.

*Uniforms/Equipment*

* Court shoes are preferred, tennis shoes/smooth-soled athletic shoes are permissible.
* Socks of varying length.
* Dress shorts/pants/jeans may be worn.
* White is the traditional color and is preferred, not required. A collared shirt is preferred, not required.
* Team members should dress alike if possible.

*Rules/Points of Interest*

Athletes and coaches must prepare for competition with the full understanding of The Rules of Bocce as outlined in the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules. Ignorance of a specific rule will not result in exception of that rule. Bocce competition will be conducted according to Special Olympics rules.

* Certified Head Coaches may only lodge protests within thirty minutes of the completion of the competition in question.

**Bowling**

*Venue Information*

* Bowling competition will be held at Century Lanes, Fort Jackson.

*Uniforms/Equipment*

* Bowling shoes are required on the lanes, normally are available from the hosting venue.
* Socks of varying length, solid color.
* Dress shorts/pants are preferred. Skirts may be worn by female athletes.
* Collared shirts are preferred. T-shirts are allowed.
* Partners should dress alike whenever possible.
* Athletes must provide their ramp if needed.

*Rules/Points of Interest*

* Bowling competition will be conducted according to Special Olympics rules.
* Competition schedule will be available at Delegation Registration/Coaches Meeting.
* Awards will be given following each shift of bowling.
* Certified head coaches may only lodge protests within thirty minutes of the completion of the competition in question.

**Gymnastics**

*Venue Information*

* Gymnastics competition will be held at All Star Gymnastics Center.

*Uniforms/Equipment*

* Males - tank tops (leotards) and long gymnastics pants or gymnastics shorts, depending on the event. T-shirts may replace tank tops, as long as they are tucked in. May compete in white socks, gymnastics slippers, or bare feet.
* Females - long sleeve leotard, bare legs and bare feet/gymnastics slippers. Flesh colored tights with bare feet are allowed, not recommended. Sleeveless leotards may be worn due to temperature. Only jewelry permitted-stud earrings.

*Rules/Points of Interest*

* Gymnastics competition will be conducted according to Special Olympics rules.
* Competition schedule will be available at Delegation Registration/Coaches Meeting.
* Coaches are not allowed in the competition area during competition.
* Head coaches may only lodge protests within thirty minutes of the completion of the competition in question.

**Powerlifting**

*Venue Information*

* Powerlifting competition will be held at the SPRC Gym, Ft. Jackson. Athletes should arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of competition.

*Uniforms and Equipment*

* Athletes are required to wear appropriate competition attire.
* One-piece, full length lifting suit of one-ply stretch material without any patches or padding.
* Non-supportive weightlifting/wrestling suit is also allowed.
* Undershirt of any color must be worn under the lifting suit.
* Socks may be worn; some type of boot or shoe must be worn.
* Please consult Special Olympics Sports Skills Guide for Power Lifting for further event specific instructions.
* Programs are required to bring their own gloves, lifting belts and other portable equipment for competition.

*Rules and Points of Interest*

* Coaches are not allowed in the competition area during competition.
* Head coaches may only lodge protests within thirty minutes of the completion of the competition in question.

**Softball**

*Venue Information*

* Softball competition will be held at Hilton Softball Complex, Fort Jackson.

*Uniforms/Equipment*

* No jewelry of any kind will be worn, except wedding bands/rings.
* Athletes should wear a numbered jersey, appropriate shorts or softball pants and appropriate footwear, no metal spikes are permitted.
* Team members should wear like uniforms. Unified team members jerseys should be numbered as athletes wear odd numbers and unified partners wear even numbers.
* Caps, visors, headbands, etc are optional. If worn, they can be mixed, but must be worn properly.
* The catcher must wear a face mask and batter’s helmet and other protective gear as outlined in the Summer Sports Rules book.
* Batting helmets are required for all batters and base runners.
* Skills players (Individual and Team) should also wear t-shirts/jerseys and athletic/gym shorts. Individuals in these events are not required to match others.

• **Coaches should bring their own batting and catching equipment.**

*Rules/Points of Interest*

* Softball competition will be conducted according to ASA and Special Olympics rules.
* Teams will be divisioned based upon submitted assessment scores. Individual skills will be divisioned based upon those scores submitted.
* A Safety 1st Base and Second Home Plate will be used during competition.
* Head coaches may only lodge protests within thirty minutes of the completion of the heat or game in question.

**Responsibilities for Coaches and Chaperones**

Coaches and Chaperones coming to Games must accept and carry out the following responsibilities:

•Provide for the general welfare, safety and wellbeing of each athlete in their charge.

•Be familiar with information in The Coaches Handbook*.*

**• Provide the following specific services to each athlete**;

−24 hr supervision of athletes, working in cooperation with other coaches in their area

−assurance that athlete/coaches/chaperone **ID’s** are worn as instructed

−assistance in accounting for luggage and personal items at all times

−assistance in reporting to competition area at the proper time

−assistance in taking full advantage of clinics and other events

−assurance that prescribed medications are taken at the proper time

−assistance in assembling at the proper time for ceremonies.

•Dress and act at all times in a manner that will be a credit to SOSC/Area program.

•Coaches will be responsible for assuring that housing is left in the same condition in which it was found.

•Report emergencies to appropriate authorities after taking immediate action to insure the health and safety of the participants. Be familiar with emergency exits.

•Coaches, chaperones and athletes **MUST ABSTAIN** from the use of alcohol or any non-prescribed behavior modifying drugs throughout the event including travel time with athletes.

•Smoke only in designated smoking areas.

•Be familiar with Special Olympics Crisis Communication in the event of a crisis

**Special Olympics South Carolina Athlete Misconduct Policy**

It is the responsibility of each athlete participating in a Special Olympics South Carolina (SOSC) event to conduct himself or herself in an appropriate manner that will promote safety and consideration to all others involved in the event.

Any athlete suspected of sexual abuse, physical abuse, verbal abuse, theft or any other criminal act will be suspended from any participation in Special Olympics during an investigation of the incident.

Once the investigation (done by SOSC or an outside source) is completed, SOSC will exercise one or more of the following options, depending on the seriousness of the incident:

1. Mandatory supervision at all times during an SOSC event, by someone approved by SOSC.

2. Suspension from the program. The length of the suspension will depend on the seriousness of the incident.

3. Expulsion from the program. Special Olympics South Carolina may also enforce the above actions if an athlete is convicted of a crime that does not relate to SOSC events.

**Special Olympics South Carolina Housing Policy**

This policy is effective for all travel that requires overnight accommodations (excludes Summer Games).

* Only registered delegation members will stay in “Delegation Housing”.
* Only members of the same sex will be housed together except for a parent rooming with their child.
* Coaches/chaperones will have separate beds from athletes. Area Directors or Heads of Delegations are expected to use discretion in the placement of athletes and coaches/chaperones to always ensure proper supervision during an event.
* One coach/unified partner/chaperone/volunteer and one athlete will not be housed together, except for:

A) parent rooming with their child.
B) above specified parties with wheelchair or severely handicapped athletes that require
 one-to-one monitoring/care.
C) when special written permission and a release is signed by the parent or legal guardian and given to the Risk Management Director or President of SOSC. This is to be submitted with the event registration.

* Each member of a delegation must spend the night within the predetermined delegation housing for the entire duration of the competition, i.e. Weekend competition –Friday and Saturday nights. The only exceptions will be granted through completing the Housing Absence form, submitting to the SOSC office, and receiving approval from Sports Staff.
* Area programs will receive rooms at a rate of 3 individuals per room. SOSC supervision policy remains in effect, i.e. 4 athletes to 1 coach/chaperone. Where available, additional rooms can be purchased by the area program for one-to-one situations, etc. A cost per event will be included with registration materials. SOSC supervision policy remains in effect, i.e. 4 athletes to 1 coach/chaperone.
* For athletes requiring medical equipment (hypodermic needles, catheters, feeding tubes, etc.), it is the responsibility of the coach/chaperone to dispose of the medical waste properly. Waste should be bagged in proper red medical waste bags and not thrown away in a trashcan.
* Any misconduct of a criminal nature by athlete, coach, volunteer or staff should be immediately reported to the Special Olympics South Carolina President/CEO or designee.

**Protective Behaviors Guidelines**

The Protective Behavior Guidelines were established to protect athletes as well as other participants at Special Olympics training and competition and other events. Special Olympics South Carolina (SOSC) is responsible for providing appropriate environments in which training, competition and other events are conducted. An important part of their responsibility is to oversee the conduct of staff, volunteers and athletes especially as they interrelate with each other.

Special Olympics, Inc. (SOI) has developed strategies to prevent physical, emotional and sexual abuse. These strategies are designed to protect athletes and volunteers.

In summary, in preventing physical abuse you should remember three things:

1. Corporal punishment or any other form of physical disciplining is not allowed.
2. Withholding water of food from athletes as a form of punishment is not allowed.
3. Only medications that have been prescribed by an athlete’s physician will be dispensed to that athlete as indicated on his or her consent form signed by either a parent or legal guardian.

In summary, in preventing emotional abuse you should remember two things.

1. Use of profanity or cursing at athletes for their performance or behavior is not allowed.
2. Special Olympics athletes will not be threatened or intimidated for any purpose.

In summary, in preventing sexual abuse, volunteers should remember four things.

1. In order to protect both athletes and volunteers, every attempt will be made to provide at least two adult volunteers to be present to supervise activities such as changing into team uniforms, showering or toileting. When it is necessary for staff or volunteers to speak privately with an athlete, they should find a place out of earshot, but within sight of others for their conference.
2. Hugs can be especially important to reinforce the positive nature of athletic competition. Hugs should be open (not secretive) and respect the limits set by the athlete. The staff and volunteers must respect any resistance by the athlete to physical contact.
3. Avoid touching areas normally covered by swimming suits. Kissing on the lips and seductive massages are not permitted (massaging pursuant to an injury or strain is permitted but should be subject to observation by others.)
4. Volunteers should be positive role models and help develop appropriate boundaries for physical contact. There may be times that an athlete will attempt inappropriate physical contact with a volunteer. In such cases, the volunteer should identify the objectionable behavior, explaining that it makes the volunteer feel uncomfortable and that a better way would be to shake hands, do “high fives” or use other more socially appropriate forms of expression.

Any suspicion of any form of abuse or neglect MUST be reported. The incident should be reported to the President/CEO, or designee at the number for Special Olympics South Carolina listed in the handbook. The President/CEO is responsible for reporting the incident to the appropriate official agency for investigation.

**Evacuation Procedures:**

In the case of an emergency, delegations should move to the assigned areas and Heads of Delegations should account for all athletes and coaches. Heads of Delegations should have a list of their entire delegation with them at all times. Also, in the event of night evacuations coaches should have a flashlight.

**Housing and Meals….2-60 Starship*:*** Delegations should move onto grass on Jackson Blvd and line up with their Area. Heads of Delegation should have a list of all delegation members with them at all times for a quick check-off.

**Opening and Closing Ceremonies…. Solomon Center**: Delegation members should exit the building and move up the hill to Marion Street. Heads of Delegations should have a list of their members for a quick accounting of all athletes.

**Aquatics…Knight Pool:** Move out into parking lot for a quick accounting of all athletes and coaches. All Coaches should have list of all athletes for quick accountability.

**Athletics…. Blythewood High School:** Move to the parking area in front of the track and field facilities for a quick accounting of all athletes. All Coaches should have list of all athletes for quick accountability

**Bocce…Bocce Complex:** Move out to the parking area in front of complex for quick accounting of all coaches and athletes. All Coaches should have a list of all athletes for quick accountability.

**Bowling…Century Lanes:** Move out to the street in front of the respective bowling alley for quick accounting for all athletes and coaches. All Coaches should have list of all athletes for quick accountability.

**Gymnastics…All Star Gymnastics Center:** Move out to the parking area, away from the building for a quick accounting of all coaches and athletes. All Coaches should have a list of all athletes for quick accountability.

**Powerlifting…SPRC Gym:** Move out to the parking area, away from the building for a quick accounting of all coaches and athletes. All Coaches should have a list of all athletes for quick accountability.

**Softball…Hilton Field:** Move out to parking area in front of complex for a quick accounting of all athletes. All Coaches should have list of all athletes for quick accountability.

*PROTEST FORM*

***This form must be submitted to the SOSC Sports Director no later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the event being protested. Once the form is received, the Sports Director will meet with the Sports Rules Committee for the specific sport/event in question and a decision will be made in a timely fashion.***

Date: Time Submitted:

Sport: Event:

Age Group: Division/Heat:

Athlete’s or Team’s Name:

Delegation Name (Area):

Reason for Protest:

Signature of Head Coach:

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Protest Approved: Protest Denied:

Details of Decision:

Signature of Sports Director:

Signature of Sport Head:

Decision Date: Time:

*COMPLAINT FORM*

***This form must be submitted to the SOSC Sports Director. Once the form is received, the Sports Director will meet with the Sport Head and the coach/family member/unified partner in question independently of each other and then all together should the need arise.***

Date: Time Submitted:

Sport: Event:

Age Group: Division/Heat:

Athlete’s or Team’s Name:

Coach and/or Family Member and/or Unified Partner:

Delegation Name (Area):

Reason for Complaint:

Signature of Sport Head:

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Details of Decision:

Signature of Sports Director:

Decision Date: Time: