

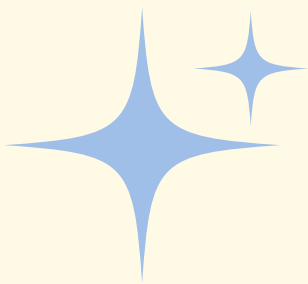
# SPECIAL OLYMPICS GREENVILLE



**Special Olympics**  
South Carolina  
Area 4 - Greenville County



*We are glad you are here!*





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# INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>

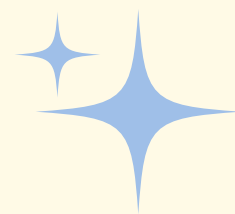
## *What is SOGVL? ✨*

Sports are universal, connecting individuals regardless of their race, background, nationality, and/or intellectual ability. The Special Olympics embodies this universality, demonstrating that human greatness is defined by much more than the limitations of the body. It provides athletes with the opportunity to feel courage and pride for their accomplishments; gives families and communities a chance to come together; and creates an environment where people can change their attitudes about people with intellectual disabilities.

The Therapeutics Department of Greenville County Rec is the home of Special Olympics Greenville (Area 4) and offers training and competition in many different sports. A full-time Therapeutics Program Coordinator directs these activities with support from hundreds of community volunteers, making it possible to offer these activities at no cost to the athlete or their family.



# SOGVL



Special Olympics Greenville serves over 1,300 athletes with intellectual disabilities from Greenville County, SC and surrounding areas by hosting a variety of sports seasons, several large events, and other opportunities for athletes to remain engaged throughout the year.

## Fall

Flag Football

Soccer

Tennis

Pickleball

Golf

Bocce

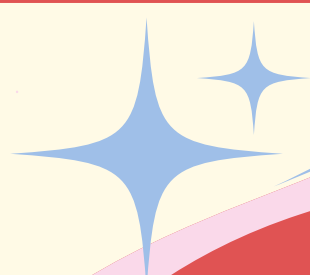
## Spring

Swimming

Softball

Bowling (21 & up)

Basketball



# A TYPICAL YEAR<sup>3</sup> WITH SOGVL

*\*these are subject to change based on competition schedule from year to year.*

## Timeline

**February - Basketball**

**March - Spring Sports**

**April - Spring Games**

**May - Summer Games**

**August - Fall Sports**

**September - Fall Games**

All sports are scheduled for 8 practices prior to competition. To complete their season, each sport competes at a local or state tournament. Throughout the year, a variety of opportunities for our athletes to get together are offered, usually in collaboration with fantastic community partners.



# SOGVL SPORTS

## breakdown

SOGVL (Area 4) currently offers a variety of sports for athletes to train in and compete. While each sport is different depending on the coach, number of volunteers, and skill levels of the athletes involved - there are opportunities in skill development, traditional play, and unified play across most sports.

### Skills

In Special Olympics competitions, skills are the fundamental abilities that athletes need to participate in sports. The goal of Special Olympics is to help people with intellectual disabilities develop and demonstrate their skills through sports.

### Unified Play

Special Olympics is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences. Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.

### Traditional

Traditional play in Special Olympics refers to teams made up exclusively of athletes with intellectual disabilities. These teams compete against others with similar skill levels, fostering a competitive environment that emphasizes teamwork, skill-building, and sportsmanship.

Want to get involved with SO<sup>5</sup>  
Greenville (Area 4)?

# FIRST STEPS



Contact Area Director



Complete Athlete Registration Form

## Next Steps - Application Process



Check Your Email



Complete Application



Await Confirmation



Applications for sports are sent via email typically a month prior to starting practices. Sports are open on a first come-first served based on previous participation. Preference is given to those who will compete at state and/or local competitions.

# PROCEDURES:

Based on competition schedules, athletes are only able to participate in one sport. For example, an athlete will not be able to participate in multiple sports that will compete at Fall Games (like Golf and Flag Football). All Special Olympics coaches and Unified Partners are volunteers; they are crucial to the success of each sport. To ensure the best experience for everyone, the number of athletes able to participate in each sport is based on the number of volunteers. This ensures that our volunteers, coaches, and Unified Partners feel appreciated and, in return, will help them be able to give each athlete the quality attention and instruction they deserve during practice and competition.



## COMMUNICATION

### SPOND

While all of our communication will continue to come through emails, an additional way to stay connected is through the Spond app. This app allows you to easily update the Area Director and the coaches of your sport if your athlete will or will not be attending practice. As sports confirmation emails roll out you will receive more information on how to get added to Spond.

### EMAIL

Email is the primary and preferred form of communication with the Area Director before and during the season. In an effort to have communication all in one place, messages in Spond will not be returned. The Area Director typically responds to emails promptly. If you haven't received a response within 24 business hours, please don't hesitate to follow up.



# COMPETITONS <sup>7</sup>

State Pickleball

State Basketball

SOGVL Basketball Invitational

SONA - Tennis/Pickleball

\*Summer Games - Fort Jackson

Swim Invitational

SMASH- Pickleball

\*Fall Games - Myrtle Beach

September Slammer

State competitions marked with an \* indicate that travel and accommodations are provided by Special Olympics Greenville (Area 4). Other competitions are available to athletes throughout the year; however, accommodations must be arranged by the parent, guardian, or caregiver.



# ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

Athletes are at the heart of our mission. Their full participation in training/sports and other Special Olympics South Carolina (SOSC) initiatives is crucial. To have full participation, codes of conduct should be followed. We are thankful for each athlete and expect each to commit to the following responsibilities when participating.

- Represent my team/coach and Special Olympics South Carolina well, including refraining from such behaviors as crude language and inappropriate behavior.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and cooperation:
  - Follow instructions concerning arrival to and departure from trainings and events (not arriving too early or departing too late).
  - Follow all directions and requests of the coach.
  - Always staying with team or group. Coaches/Chaperones must know where athlete is at all times.
  - Treat all athletes, unified partners, coaches, officials, volunteers, and staff with respect.
  - Refrain from continually texting/calling volunteers/coaches/unified partners when have been asked to stop.
  - Refrain from posting on social media when have a concern and agree to take the concern to the coach.
- Refrain from consumption of alcoholic substances and non-prescribed behavior modifying drugs during training/competition including travel to and from training and competition.
- Refrain from any behavior deemed inappropriate and/or illegal such as theft, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, and physical abuse.
- Wear credential/identification provided by SOSC during events/competitions where applicable.
- Commit to train during the sport season with a schedule set by the coach.



# UNIFORMS:

It's important for athletes to wear athletic clothing that supports their sport and ensures comfort and freedom of movement. While SOGVL is able to provide jerseys/tops for all sports, it is challenging to provide pants/shorts that adequately fit every athlete's unique style, comfort needs, and body type.

Parents/caregivers are asked to provide the appropriate pants/shorts for their athlete. Here are the guidelines for each sport:

- Most sports: Solid black shorts without pockets and with no large designs or logos on the front or back
- Tennis and Pickleball: Athletic skirts or shorts
- Softball: Black baseball or softball pants
- Golf: Khaki pants or shorts (depending on the season and weather)

Please make sure your athlete wears comfortable, appropriate shoes for each sport. For most of our sports, athletes will be required to wear a well-fitted athletic or tennis shoe. For safety reasons, Crocs, flip-flops, and other loose footwear aren't suitable as they don't provide the support needed for running and active play. Wearing proper shoes helps your athlete stay safe and perform their best.



# SPRING GAMES



*Our favorite day of the year!*

Spring Games is our largest event of the year, bringing approximately 1,200 athletes to Furman University for a track and field-style competition. Athletes can compete in one of over 15 events, take part in games and win prizes at Olympic Town, and enjoy a day of camaraderie with their peers. The event is made possible by the combined efforts of thousands of volunteers, families, friends, and community partners. Thank you for supporting us in our endeavor to provide a first rate event for our local Special Olympics Community!

## *Interested in volunteering?*

Our amazing athletes look forward to this event all year and volunteer participation is an integral part of their experience. Use the contact information at the end of this guide to learn more about how to get signed up as a volunteer.



# SPONSORSHIP Opportunities



## Gold Medal Sponsor

\$5000

Gold Medal level sponsors receive:

- Recognition as a major sponsor on event promotions, T-shirts, and our website
- Event day recognition during Opening Ceremonies, in event programming, in athlete goodie bags, and on main event signage



## Silver Medal Sponsor

\$2500

Silver Medal Sponsors receive:

- Event day recognition during Opening Ceremonies in athlete goodie bags, and on signage for area of sponsorship
- 4 areas available to sponsor:
  - Opening Ceremonies Field (includes area for 100M walk, shot put, softball throw, and standing long jump)
  - Track (Includes all running and walking events not on fields plus relays and running long jump)
  - Olympic Town (includes wheelchair race events)
  - Rugby Field (includes 50M dash, Challenge Events, and Young Athletes)



## Bronze Medal Sponsor

\$750

Bronze medal sponsors receive:

- Event Day Recognition on Bronze Medal sponsor signage



## Be A Fan

Starting at \$100

Show some love for your favorite Special Olympics athlete by donating today!



# THANK *You!*



Thank you so much for expressing interest in getting involved with Special Olympics Greenville (Area 4)! Whether a parent, athlete, volunteer or community partner - you are an important piece of helping us complete and support our mission here in Greenville, SC. We'd love to share more about opportunities to get involved and find the perfect fit for you. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions! Thank you again for your support—we couldn't do it without you!

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