

**Special
Olympics**
Massachusetts



50 YEARS
1968-2018

2018 Fall Sports Season Informational Packet

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Fall Season Event Calendar

- September
 - 16th & 17th Newport Sailing Regatta
 - 16th Coaches College
 - 16th Worcester City View 5K
 - 23rd LETR Humboldt Truck Pull, Canton
 - 29th North Shore Equestrian
 - 29th LETR Berkshires Humvee Push
 - 30th South Shore Equestrian
 - 30th Big E Day

- October
 - 11th Applebee's Tip a Cop
 - 13th Fire Truck Pull, Mansfield
 - 12th & 13th Senior Sports
 - 13th Barbells & Beanbags Fundraiser
 - 14th Football Qualifying Tournaments
 - 20th Westfield Trick or Trot 5K / Trunk or Treat
 - 21st Soccer Qualifying Tournaments

- November
 - 4th State Soccer Cup
 - 13th LETR Berkshire Fun Sweater Run
 - 17th Flag Football Bowl
 - 23rd Super Plunge – Pittsfield
 - 24th Poultry Plunge - Pittsfield

- December
 - 1st LETR Cop on Top, Chicopee
 - 1st – 2nd LETR Cop on Top, Pittsfield
 - 1st Jolly Jaunt, Boston
 - 2nd LETR Holiday 5K, Peabody
 - 2nd Jolly Jaunt Hyannis
 - 9th Tabor Academy Polar Plunge

2018 Fall Season Deadlines

- ***All athletes MUST have a valid medical to begin training***
- ****All Class A's/Medicals are due no later than week before the qualifier, or they will be scratched from competition****
- ***Send all forms to Ops@SpecialOlympicsMA.org***

Wednesday, August 29th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosters from last Fall Season sent to coaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will include medical/class A expiration dates and registered events from last season
Wednesday, September 5th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flag Football and Soccer Team Intents due <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Let us know how many teams, and what discipline, you plan to have – this will help us determine how many venues we have for each sport during qualifiers
Wednesday, September 12th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Sports Registration and Housing Due
Wednesday, September 26th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flag Football / Cheerleading Registrations Due
Wednesday, October 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soccer Registrations due
Monday, October 15th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flag / Cheerleading Final Registrations sent to coaches
Monday, October 22nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soccer Final Registrations sent to coaches
Wednesday, October 24th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soccer AND Flag / Cheerleading Final Registrations due

Fall Season Sport Offering

Fall Season Sports Offered

- Equestrian
- Flag Football & Cheerleading
- Soccer

Sport Rules

- Qualifying Tournaments are mandatory for all athletes and Unified Partners that wish to advance onto the Season Ending State Tournament.
 - Waivers requests for missing qualifier must be submitted prior to qualifying tournament and will be reviewed by SOMA staff
 - Qualifying Tournaments will be a round robin format
- Special Olympics Resource page (http://www.specialolympics.org/Sections/Sports-and-Games/Sports_and_Games.aspx) is home to
 - All Sports rules
 - Coaching and training guides

Sport Appropriate Uniforms & Equipment Guidelines

- Matching Branded Uniforms **are required** for all participants
 - Soccer
 - Logoed Shirt with #'s
 - Matching shorts or pants (*NO POCKETS*)
 - Cleats
 - Shin Guards
 - Teams must provide their own Soccer ball
 - Mouth Guards
 - Flag Football
 - Logoed Shirt with #'s
 - Matching shorts or pants (*NO POCKETS*)
 - Cleats
 - Tri flagged quick release belt
 - Mouth guards
 - Coaches – Logoed Polo Shirt / T- Shirt / Hoodie or Jacket / Pants
- The following alternations to uniforms or equipment is **NOT ALLOWED**
 - Any equipment deemed unsafe that could lead to potential injuries to any of the participants on the playing field, such as exposed metal, crutches, canes or wheelchairs are not allowed.
 - Metal cleats
 - Hard casts
 - Face Paint
 - Pockets on shorts or pants
 - Shoulder pads
 - Helmets

Team Evaluation Form

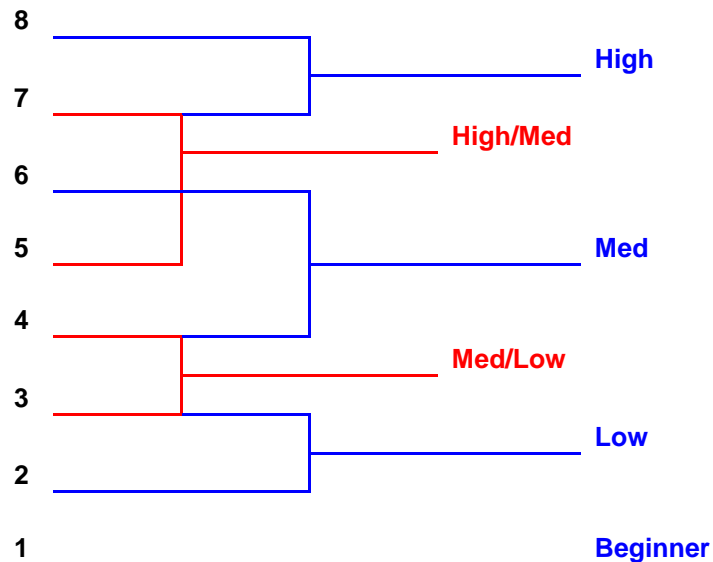
The Team evaluation form (*accompanying documentation*) is a tool to help you identify the level of your team. Is **HIGHLY recommended** that a coach fills it out to determine your team's level of play.

Instructions:

- 1) Individual Assessment Form
 - a. Complete one individual assessment for each athlete and or Unified Partner
 - b. Choose a point value the best describes the individual's skill level
 - c. When each section is complete add each score box for a total point value for that section
 - d. Add up the total from each section and divide by six for the individuals overall rating
 - e. Transfer scores to Team Summary Form

- 2) Team Summary Form
 - a. Transfer results from all individual assessment's to team summary form
 - b. List the players from the highest score to the lowest score
 - c. Add all the scores and take the average to get the Total team rating
 - d. Add all the scores from the top five players and take the average to get the Top Five Players score
 - e. Add all the scores and take the average of the bottom five players to get the bottom five players score

- 3) Results
 - a. The following graph will determine your level based on your team's rating score



Sport Information

Flag Football & Cheerleading:

- Qualifying Tournaments
 - October 14th
 - Taunton High School, Taunton MA
 - Harvard Stadium, Boston MA
 - Westfield State College, Westfield
- **Teams will BE ASSIGNED** to a qualifying tournament
- Qualifying Tournaments **are mandatory** for all athletes and Unified Partners that wish to advance onto the Season Ending Tournament
 - Teams may attend one(1) of the above events to qualify
 - Waivers requests for missing qualifier must be submitted 1 week prior to qualifying tournament and will be reviewed by SOMA staff
 - Qualifying Tournament will be a round robin format

 - Athletes competing in Cheerleading do not have to attend an Qualifying Tournament in order to compete at the State Games
 - *As cheerleading is a demonstration sport, athletes who compete in Cheerleading may also compete in either Soccer or Equestrian*
- Roster Size
 - Minimum of 8; Maximum of 15
- Registration
 - September 5th Team Intentions DUE
 - September 26th Registration **DUE**
 - October 31st **FINAL REG DUE**
- Cheerleading Equipment Needed
 - Music & IPod
 - Pom-Pom's
 - All cheerleaders should be dressed in the appropriate cheerleading uniforms

Flag Football & Cheerleading Continued

- Season Ending Tournament
 - When: Saturday November 17th
 - Where: Gillette Stadium & Franklin High School
 - Teams that were at Franklin High School in 2017 will be given preference, but are not guaranteed, to play at Gillette in 2018
 - Meals
 - No lunch is provided.
 - Special Olympics Massachusetts is working with the Patriots to offer discounted meals at CBS Scene for all teams as well as working to arrange for concessions at Franklin High School
 - Transportation
 - All programs and teams are responsible for their own transportation to and from this event.
 - Notes
 - This annual event is hosted by the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation. With this partnership, this event also serves as a New England based Flag Football Championship with teams from all over New England participating.

Soccer:

- Qualifying Tournaments
 - October 14th,
 - Pingree School, Hamilton, MA
 - Ruel Field, Oxford, MA
 - Plymouth St Fields, 50 Plymouth St, Mansfield
- Qualifier Location
 - Teams **will be ASSIGNED TO** a qualifier location
- Qualifying Tournaments are **mandatory** for all athletes and Unified Partners that wish to advance onto the Season Ending Tournament
 - Waivers requests for missing qualifier must be submitted 1 week prior to qualifying tournament and will be reviewed by SOMA staff
 - Qualifying Tournament will be a round robin format
- Roster Size
 - Minimum of 8; Maximum of 15
- Registration **DUE** Dates
 - September 5th Team Intentions Due
 - Qualifiers **DUE** October 3rd
 - Season Ending Tournament, **DUE** October 24th

Soccer Continued

- Season Ending Tournament
 - When: November 4th
 - Where : The Governors Academy 1 Elm St, Byfield, MA
 - Meals
 - A box lunch of sandwich, drink, & fruit is provided to each participant.
 - *All lunches are donated by The Governors Academy*
 - Event Parking
 - Once onsite Governors Academy students will direct you to the appropriate parking spot.
 - Please follow the students as they direct you into the campus and park where instructed, so we may have a safe traffic flow in and out of the campus.
 - Notes
 - The annual Soccer State Cup is hosted in partnership with The Governors Academy. The Governors Academy has been the host site for this event for the past 30 years. Students make up the Games Management Team and meet for 2 months with SOMA staff to prepare themselves for running this event. In order to be a member of the Games Management Team, students apply during their junior year, where they shadow a senior for event. Shadows and event leads recruit the entire campus to volunteer, train volunteers, and raise funds in support of Special Olympics Massachusetts and the State Soccer Cup.

Senior Sports Classic Overview

Date:	October 12 th & 13 th
Venues:	Cape Coder – <i>Hotel & Dance</i> Fairfield Inn - <i>Hotel</i> Barnstable High - <i>Competition</i>
Sports Offered:	Bocce, Golf Skills, Corn Hole & Race-walking
Age Guidelines:	Senior Sports is for athletes 40 years or older
Registration Info:	Each athlete will be allowed to participate in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One race-walking event and• One selection of bocce, corn hole or golf skills.• For a total of two events
Other Events:	Friday Night Dinner & Dance Saturday BBQ hosted by the Parrot Heads
Awards:	To be given out following each heat/event
Medicals:	All athlete medicals should be onsite with the coach and will be checked for on Friday at registration. Medicals are due to Section Office by specified deadline.
Chaperone Ratio:	3 athletes to 1 Chaperone
Forms & Deadlines:	<u>DUE</u> September 12 th

Coach Education Criteria

To Receive Certification

- 1) Be a SOMA Class A Volunteer:
 - a. Complete a Class "A" Volunteer application (*every 3 years*)
 - b. Complete the online Protective Behaviors (*every 3 years*)
 - c. Complete a "Coaching in SOMA" General Orientation (*1 time only*)
- 2) Complete the SOMA Sport Certification test (*every 3 years*)
- 3) Concussion Awareness Training
 - a. Requirement for all S.O. coaches across the country.
 - i. Available through the CDC website
 - ii. Available through the National Federation of State High School Associations www.NFSH.org
 - iii. If you have already taken it through your work or school submit your completed certificate to SOMA and you are covered
- 4) CPR & First Aid Certification
 - a. All programs to have at least one individual who attends practices and tournaments to have this certification.
 - b. Does not need to be the Head Coach, just someone SOMA can track

And if you coach Unified Sports:

- 5) Complete a Unified Sports Course to Coach a Unified Sports Team
 - c. *Only if you coach a Unified Sports team*
 - d. *Done online*

If you have any questions about your certification status or certification status of the coaches in your program please contact your Operations Manager. See page to see who your Community Development Manager contact is.

Interested in hosting a CPR / 1st Aid Training for the programs in your area? Here is what you need to do:

- Line up a volunteer trainer to teach course
 - SOMA will pay for lunch & certification cards
- Confirm course with your community development manager

Coaches College

When: September 16th
Where: Holy Cross Luth Athletic Complex

- 8:30am Registration
- 9am – 1pm Local Program Coordinator Training
- 9am- 10:30am Soccer Training
Flag Football Training
- 10:30am General Session
- 12pm Lunch
- 1pm Basketball Training

Clinicians

- Soccer:
 - **John Ford** - Class E, F, G certified Mass Youth soccer coach / National Soccer Coaches of Assoc. Regional & Advanced certified coach
- Flag Football
 - Side Kick Sports Academy
- Basketball
 - Stephen Basden – Endicott College 4 year starter.

Other Notes:

- Lunch provided to all registrants
- Registrants receive:
 - All registrants receive a SOMA 50th Anniversary Hoodie
 - Local Program Coordinator Training Registrants receive
 - 3 ring Pad folio
 - Register for all for morning and afternoon sessions coaches will also receive a 1st aid kit

Register:

- Online at https://www.specialolympicsma.org/event/coaches-college-2/?instance_id=365

County Contacts

The below counties (*with a few exceptions*) are overseen by a Operations Manager.

County	Manager	E-mail address	Phone
Barnstable	Eric Archambault	eric.archambault@SpecialOlympicsMa.org	508-485-0986 ext. 221
Berkshire	Matt Vaghi	matt.vaghi@SpecialOlympicsMa.org	508-485-0986 ext. 229
Bristol	Eric Archambault	eric.archambault@SpecialOlympicsMa.org	508-485-0986 ext. 221
Dukes	Eric Archambault	eric.archambault@SpecialOlympicsMa.org	508-485-0986 ext. 221
Essex	Kevin Crossman	kevin.crossman@SpecialOlympicsMa.org	508-485-0986 ext. 259
Franklin	Matt Vaghi	matt.vaghi@SpecialOlympicsMa.org	508-485-0986 ext. 229
Hampden	Matt Vaghi	matt.vaghi@SpecialOlympicsMa.org	508-485-0986 ext. 229
Hampshire	Matt Vaghi	matt.vaghi@SpecialOlympicsMa.org	508-485-0986 ext. 229
Middlesex	Kevin Crossman	kevin.crossman@SpecialOlympicsMa.org	508-485-0986 ext. 259
Nantucket	Eric Archambault	eric.archambault@SpecialOlympicsMa.org	508-485-0986 ext. 221
Norfolk	Kevin Crossman	kevin.crossman@SpecialOlympicsMa.org	508-485-0986 ext. 259
Plymouth	Eric Archambault	eric.archambault@SpecialOlympicsMa.org	508-485-0986 ext. 221
Suffolk	Kevin Crossman	kevin.crossman@SpecialOlympicsMa.org	508-485-0986 ext. 259
Worcester	Matt Vaghi	matt.vaghi@SpecialOlympicsMa.org	508-485-0986 ext. 229

Volunteers Needed

If your program or team needs help recruiting Coaches, Unified Partners or Volunteers let SOMA know so we may help you by advertising your needs in our monthly volunteer newsletter.

Please submit the following information to Jennifer Dowdy at Jennifer.dowdy@specialolympicsma.org

- Sport
- Practice Location, Day & Time
- Age of your athletes
- Contact person with email address and phone number



Come and celebrate Special Olympics Massachusetts at the BIG E on September 30th
All SOMA teams will receive free entry to the fair and t-shirts

9:30 am	First arrival time for Teams at Fair Ground Bus Depot
10:00 am	Opening Ceremony at the Flag Plaza
11:30 am	Second arrival time for teams at Fair Grounds Bus Depot
1:00 – 4 pm	Young Athletes Expo, Unified Bocce, and Cheerleading Demonstration at Storowton Village
4:30 pm	Staging for BIG E Parade
5:00 pm	BIG E Parade

To register or for more information please contact your Operations Manager at ops@SpecialOlympicsMA.org

Special Olympics Massachusetts would like to THANK the following partners!

