



***Special  
Olympics  
Massachusetts***

**Basketball Season Overview  
2019**

## **Table of Contents**

1. Deadlines
2. Levels of Competition
  - a. Community Games
  - b. Qualifying Tournament
  - c. Season Ending Tournament
3. Criteria to Attend
4. Event Dates
5. Frequently asked basketball questions
6. Community Games
  - a. Event locations & Quota per event

## Basketball Season Deadlines

- All Medical/Class A forms due no later than 1 week before your qualifier, or they will be scratched
- All Basketball Registrations from 2018 to be sent to programs on **Weds. November 28th**
  - Will contain last season's roster, medical and Class A expiration dates
  - You can either modify this document and submit as your 2019 registration, or use it as a reference to complete a blank SOMA Basketball registration (*found on our Forms and Downloads page on our website*)
- Basketball Registrations **due Weds. January 9<sup>th</sup>** by 1pm
  - Rosters
  - Team Rating Form
  - Unified Checklist (*If team is Unified or Player Development*)
  - All these forms are available online
- Final registrations sent to all programs on **Feb 11<sup>th</sup>**
- Final Registration and housing **due by Feb 13<sup>th</sup>**
  - Any expired medical or class A between qualifier and season ending tournament must be submitted to Business Ops or they will be scratched
- Housing deadline Feb 13<sup>th</sup>- Information will be sent once available.

**\*\*Be sure to check Dashboard emails from Business Ops Department for any registration news\*\***

## Levels of Competition

- Community Games
  - Local mini round robin competitions where SOMA partners with Schools, Universities, or Rec Leagues
  - Events are set up by Special Olympics MA to give athletes another opportunity to compete and play
  - Teams will be assigned to competition venues and are required to attend events they are scheduled at to remain eligible for higher level tournament
  
- Qualifying Tournament
  - Mid-season tournament for all Traditional and Unified teams that compete in the Senior (13-21) or Masters (22+) age groups interested in advancing onto the Season Ending tournament
  - Teams must attend a qualifier in their discipline in order to remain eligible for the Season Ending Tournament.
  - Medals and Ribbons will be awarded based on placement
  - Criteria to attend is detailed on page 5
  
- Season Ending Tournament - **Traditional and Unified Teams competing in the Senior and Master age groups**
  - Two-day tournament hosted in Greater Worcester area
  - Teams compete on both Saturday and Sunday and are awarded medals/ribbons based on placement within their division
  - Season ending tournament for all teams that meet prior advancement criteria (*see page 5*)
  
- Season Ending Tournament - **All Player Development Teams & Junior aged teams**
  - One day tournament hosted at Fay School and St. Mark's School in Southborough
  - Teams compete in an assigned division and are awarded medals/ribbons based on placement within their division
  - Season ending tournament for all teams that meet prior advancement criteria (*see page 5*)

## Criteria to Attend

- Community Games
  - Be a part of a certified SOMA Local Program
  - Have a valid Class A or Athlete Application on file with SOMA
  - Have a non-playing coach that has a valid Class A and Protective Behaviors on file.
  
- Qualifying Tournament
  - Must attend assigned Community Games competitions to remain eligible for advancement
  - Must meet all deadlines with **complete and accurate** information
    - Any registrations received past the deadline will be ineligible to advance through levels of competition
  - All forms (*Class A or Athlete Application*) are to be **up to date and valid**
  - Have submitted a complete and accurate Team Rating form for divisioning purposes
  - Required attendance for all Traditional & Unified Seniors (*ages 13-21*) & Masters (*ages 22+*) teams wishing to advance to the Season Ending Tournament (*Winter Games*)
    - Unified Player Development teams are not required to attend a Qualifying Tournament
    - Juniors (*ages 8-15*) level teams are not required to attend a Qualifying Tournament
  - Competition dates are on page 6
  - Teams **must attend** assigned qualifier in their discipline.
  
- Season Ending Tournament (*Winter Games*)
  - Traditional & Unified Seniors (*ages 13-21*) & Masters (*ages 22+*) teams must finish in a pre-determined place at their respective State Qualifying Tournament.
  - All Juniors (*ages 8-15*) level teams automatically advance to their season ending tournament assuming all other criteria is fulfilled
  - All Unified Player Development teams automatically advance to their season ending tournament assuming all other criteria is fulfilled
    - Juniors and Player Development Teams that do not meet the minimum criteria will be ineligible to compete at the Season Ending Tournament
  - Must meet all respective deadlines
  - Must attend all assigned Community Games
    - Assignments will be posted to the Winter Season page and will be updated throughout the season
  - Must meet all prior criteria
  - Competition Dates see page 6

## Event Dates

- Community Games Opportunities
  - Assigned games will be posted on the Winter Season Page of the SOMA website.
    - Assignments will be updated as new sites and information are confirmed
  - Teams will receive a detailed game schedule 1-2 weeks prior to the assigned game
  
- Qualifying Tournaments
  - January 27<sup>th</sup>
    - Rivers School, Weston
    - Weston High School, Weston
    - Babson College, Wellesley
  - February 9<sup>th</sup>
    - Stonehill College, Easton
    - Bridgewater/Raynham Regional High School, Bridgewater

**\*\*SOMA will begin the venue assignment process once final registrations are received January 9<sup>th</sup>.\*\***

- Season Ending Tournament
  - Juniors (*ages 8-15*)
    - Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>
    - St Marks & Fay School, Southboro, MA
  
  - Unified Player Development (*All age groups*)
    - Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>
    - St Marks & Fay School, Southboro, MA
  
  - Traditional & Unified Seniors (*ages 13-21*) & Masters (*ages 22+*)
    - March 9 & 10, 2019
    - Greater Worcester

## Frequently Asked Basketball Questions

- Does my program need to submit a registration form for a Community Game?
  - *A registration form is not needed for each event. Teams attending Community Games must be certified Local Programs with SOMA and must submit a complete roster including participants that are training only.*
- Why do we need to list participants that do not attend competition?
  - *These participants are still Special Olympics Massachusetts participants and must be captured in our database. Registering all participants also protects the program if there is ever an injury at practice.*
- What is the Roster size for basketball?
  - *Teams must stay within the Min & Max roster sizes for all events*
  - *Minimum Roster size for Traditional teams- 8 / Maximum Roster size is 15*
  - *Minimum Roster size for Unified teams- 9/ Maximum roster size 15*
    - *Unified teams must have at least 4 Unified Partners*
  - *Unified rosters must have a composition of 50/50 to 60/40.*
- Why was my team changed from Unified to Traditional?
  - *Teams competing in Unified Sports must meet all established rules including having at minimum 4 Unified Partners registered per team. Teams that cannot meet this minimum will compete in a Traditional divisions*
- Why has the roster size increased to a maximum of 15 players?
  - *After receiving feedback from teams the decision to increase the roster limit to 15 was to keep programs from having to withhold athletes from competition due to roster restrictions. With the current min/max once a team exceeds the maximum they have enough players to divide the team into two for competition and still meet the minimum roster size requirement.*
- Can a basketball team attend a qualifier if they do not attend to advance onto the Season Ending Tournament?
  - *The qualifier is a tournament to advance onto the season ending tournament. Teams must place in a specified placement at this event to move onto the Season Ending tournament in March.*
  - *If your team does not wish to advance on to the Season Ending Tournament, it is highly recommend to just to attend your local community games, as priority to attend a qualifier will be giving to those teams looking to advance on.*
- Can my team or individual players get a waiver to advance on to the Season Ending Tournament (Winter Games) if they miss the qualifying tournament?
  - *NO, your team & all players must attend qualifiers in your discipline and finish in a predetermined place within your division.*

- *Individual participants must compete at a Qualifying Tournament to advance to the Season Ending Tournament with the team. Players that do not attend or are scratched will not be eligible to compete at the next level of competition*

### **Community Game Opportunities**

For the current listing of Community Games venues for the 2018-2019 Special Olympics Massachusetts Basketball Season please visit the Basketball Local Tournament Information section of the Winter Sports Season webpage:

<https://www.specialolympicsma.org/events/sporting-events/winter-season/>

To provide teams with an improved competition experience SOMA has scheduled all Community Games. Teams will be required to attend their assigned competitions in order to remain eligible to advance through the levels of competition. An updated schedule will be posted to the Winter Season page. Please continue to monitor the competition listing as new venues are being confirmed as the season approaches.

\*\*Teams are scheduled based on information provided to SOMA staff. If your team(s) are changing type or age group please contact [Business Operations staff](#) immediately.