

## Our Mission

Our mission is to provide year-round sports training and 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.

## Local, State, and National Events

Throughout the year, all athletes will have the opportunity to compete at area/regional events. As many athletes as possible will then be selected to compete in state events. Every other year, we will take one or more teams of athletes to nationals (have currently seen bowling, softball, and volleyball). Selections for state and national events will be based on a variety of criteria with the desire to provide opportunities for numerous athletes to attend over the course of multiple years.

## Athlete-Leadership Input Council

We firmly believe in our athletes having a voice in our organization. This is done primarily through an Input Council that meets 1-2 times per month. Athletes discuss various topics of interest, ideas for the future, planning events, and ways to improve/maintain current operations. These are held in-person and remotely.

## Volunteers (Coaches, Unified Partners, etc.)

We are always looking for volunteers (coaches, event workers, mentors, unified partners, etc.). This important work is CRUCIAL to the success of our athletes. Contact Richelle Lefler for the paperwork!

## Who Is Eligible?

Special Olympics has two criteria for participation:

- Athletes must be diagnosed with an intellectual disability.
- Athletes must be at least 8 years old.

We also have unified partners! This is open to anyone 14 years and older who does not qualify to be a Special Olympics athlete.

## What Does It Cost?

Athletes may participate in Special Olympics at **NO COST** to them. Throughout the year, we hold various fundraisers to pay for needed items and practice sites. We are also supported largely by the Tuscarawas County Board of Developmental Disabilities and several other community sponsors (VFW Post #1445, Ruth Carlson-Starlight Foundation Dover Moose, Rainbow Connection, local schools, The Metzcar Family, Domino's Pizza in Dover, etc.).

## Contact Information

In most cases, you will contact one of the coaches with sport-specific questions. You can also contact the Local Coordinator, Richelle Lefler in person (at practices) or through one of the methods below:

### FACEBOOK

Tuscarawas County Special Olympics - Rockets Proud

### EMAIL

tuscarawascountyspecialolympic@gmail.com (don't put an 's' on olympic)

### MAILING ADDRESS

Tuscarawas County Special Olympics  
%533 E Canal Street Rear  
Newcomerstown, Ohio 43832  
ATTN: Richelle Lefler

## Tuscarawas County Special Olympics:

Where you can find...

COMMUNITY \* OPPORTUNITIES \* COMPETITION



OPPORTUNITY \* BELONGING \* A VOICE



AND SO MUCH MORE!

# Sports Starting in the Summer

*(Sign-Ups in May/June)*

## Golf (Unified & Traditional)

- This is a new sport for the Rockets. Our hope is to offer at least two local invitationals per year. We would like to expand to offering more and will attempt to coordinate this with local golf courses.

## Skills Softball (starts at beginning of July)

- This is best for athletes who may not be ready to safely compete unassisted in softball.
- Athletes will focus on the skills of batting, throwing, base running, and fielding. A tee is used.
- 1-2 games (with buddies) will be scheduled so that athletes can apply the skills to a game situation.

## Team Softball (starts at the end of June)

- Athletes will compete in games and tournaments with other teams.
- The pace is quick, and the rules of softball (strikes, outs, etc.) are followed.
- Athletes must hit a pitched ball.

# Sports Starting in the Fall

*(Sign-Ups in August/September)*

## Monthly Bowling (Unified & Traditional)

- We will hold a monthly bowling time for athletes and unified partners. Athletes and partners must sign up before the day of the practice to be included.

## Flag Football (starts in the beginning of September)

- Athletes will have weekly practices in the evening during the week (usually Tuesdays and Thursdays).
- There will be 2-3 games held each season with a state competition in November.

## Pep Club (starts mid-September)

- Practices one time per week.
- Cheers at all flag football games.

## Aquatics (September - February)

- Practices one time per week.
- Competes 1-2 times per season and at a regional qualifier.
- A state competition is held in February.

# Sports Starting in the Winter

*(Sign-Ups in September/October)*

## Individual Skills Basketball (starts at beginning of December)

- This is best for athletes who may not be ready to safely compete in competitive basketball.
- Practices are held one time per week.
- Skills focused on will be dribbling, passing, and shooting.
- 1-2 games (with buddies) will be scheduled so that athletes can apply the skills to a game situation.
- There is a regional and state competition (if we have athletes who qualify). State is in February.

## Team Basketball (starts in October)

- Our hope is to have multiple teams each season. We like to division these teams based upon skill level and ability to compete in various divisions.
- Our hope is to give ALL athletes a fighting chance to make it to the state tournament (only 4 teams in the state per division participate in the state tournament).
- Practice are held 2-3 times per week with 8-10 games being held per season.
- There is a regional tournament, and the state tournament is in February.
- We also host a local invitational and a season-ending community game as well as a statewide friendship game.

## Pep Club (starts in November)

- Practices one time per week.
- Cheers at all home basketball and tournament games.

## Competitive Cheer

- This is in addition to pep club.
- Competition is in February.

# Sports Starting in the Spring

*(Sign-Ups in March/April)*

## Athletics (Track & Field - Unified and Traditional) - starts in March/April

- Practices are held one time a week. These are usually on Sunday afternoons for two hours.
- Athletes may select 2 individual events and a relay to participate in unless they are in the pentathlon, which is 5 events.
- There are a wide range of events, so this is accessible to athletes of all ability levels.
- There are 1-3 fun track meets during the season as well as a regional track meet to determine who is eligible for Summer Games.

## Bocce(Unified & Traditional)-starts in March/April

- Practices are held 1-2 times per week. These are usually during the week.
- Athletes compete in pairs.
- There are 1-3 fun bocce tournaments during the season as well as a regional tournament to determine who is eligible for Summer Games.

## Individual Bowling - starts in March/April

- We will have a condensed 5-week bowling season in April/May.
- Practices will be one time per week.
- We will hold a local or regional tournament to determine who is eligible for Summer Games.

## Volleyball (Unified & Modified) - starts in March/April

- Practices are held 1-2 times per week.
- We will have 1-3 games throughout the season.
- We will participate in a regional tournament.

## Summer Games are in June (all spring sports)/

