

SPECIAL OLYMPICS WISCONSIN 2023-2024 COMPETITION GUIDE

MEMO, KEY CHANGES & IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Please note that this is only a synopsis and **does not reflect all of the Competition Guide** changes for the 2023-2024 year. Coaches should review the rules annually in order to become familiar with any changes that have been made.

1. New Sports Seasons. Special Olympics Wisconsin announced a new sport season schedule for 2023 and beyond that will best fit Athlete participation trends and allow for appropriate time for training while also considering facility availability for practices and competitions. View the [New Sport Seasons Announcement Article](#) and the [New Sport Seasons Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more details.
 - A. Winter Sports (Dec – Feb): Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Snowboarding, Snowshoe Racing
 - B. Spring Sports (Jan – April): 3v3 Basketball, Basketball Skills, Team Basketball, Swimming
 - C. Summer Sports (March – June): Athletics (Track & Field), Cornhole, Gymnastics, Powerlifting, Soccer, Tennis
 - D. Fall Sports (July – Dec): Bocce, Bowling, Flag Football, Golf, Softball, Tee Ball, Volleyball
2. New State Games Locations. With the changes in sport season, most of the State Competitions will be at new venues in 2023.
 - A. Winter Sports culminate at Winter Games (Nine Mile Forest & Granite Peak, Wausau)
 - B. Spring Sports culminate at Spring Games (UW-Oshkosh, Oshkosh)
 - C. Summer Sports culminate at Summer Games (UW-Whitewater, Whitewater)
 - D. Fall Sports:
 - I. Bocce, Flag Football and Softball will culminate at Fall Games (Woodside Dells, Wisconsin Dells)
 - II. Golf will remain stand-alone State Tournaments (Columbus, De Pere)
 - III. Tee Ball will remain a stand-alone State Tournament (Richfield)
 - IV. Bowling will remain a stand-alone State Tournament (Weston)
 - V. Volleyball will remain a stand-alone State Tournament (Menomonee Falls)
3. Athlete Seasonal Multi-Sport Participation. Athletes may participate in more than one sport per season, with restrictions. View additional details for multi-sport participation in the General Competition Information section of the Competition Guide. The Multi-Sport Participation rules apply to athletes in player, coach, or athlete leadership roles at events.
4. Recruitment of Current Special Olympics Athletes. It has come to our attention that programs have been illegally recruiting athletes to switch programs. Illegal recruiting is defined as a local program approaching a player from another program and persuading them to switch programs. Illegal recruiting is prohibited by Special Olympics Wisconsin and a Code-of-Conduct violation. Programs engaging in illegal recruiting may be placed on probation based on the severity of the incident(s). If you have any questions, please contact:
 - A. Senior Director of Field Services, [Mark Wolfgram](#)
 - B. Your [Regional Athletic Director](#)
 - C. Senior Director of Sports, [Nicole Christensen](#)

5. Cornhole. SOWI added events in cornhole to better accommodate ability levels. This is a general overview of each event. Reference the Cornhole rules for additional details. All cornhole events are played as doubles competition.
 - A. Developmental Cornhole: Developed for athletes that cannot throw a bag the full length of the court. This event is played on a shorter court (15ft). All points that are scored each half inning will be counted and both teams may receive points within the same half inning.
 - B. Level 1 Cornhole (same event offered in 2022): This event is played on a 21ft court. All points that are scored each half inning will be counted and both teams may receive points within the same half inning. This event is intended for Cornhole Teams that score 1-5 on the CHAT.
 - C. Level 2 Cornhole: This event is played on a 21ft court. One team will receive points each half inning. The points are given to the team that scores the most points in a half inning. The point total is determined by subtracting scores from the two teams. This event is intended for Cornhole Teams that score 6+ on the CHAT.
 - D. Unified Cornhole: Follows the same scoring rules as Level 2. Doubles must be comprised of one athlete and one unified partner. All unified teams must register for this event – a unified team cannot compete in Developmental or Level 1 Cornhole.

6. Return to Play Updates. In January 2023, SOWI updated the Return to Play Guidance to better follow transitions in the current and future states of the COVID-19 pandemic. SOWI will utilize the COVID-19 Community Levels as guidance to help minimize the impact of COVID-19 on individuals and the health care systems. Visit <https://www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/return-to-play-during-covid-19/> for additional information.