



***Special
Olympics***
New York



**2026 WINTER GAMES
HANDBOOK**

ROCHESTER, NY





Friday, February 20

Time	Event	Location
1:00 – 5:00 pm	Delegation Check-In & Control Center	Hyatt Rochester
4:30 - 6:45 pm	Dinner for All Athletes/Coaches	Riverside Convention Center
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Honored Guest Reception	Riverside Convention Center
6:00 – 6:30 pm	Head of Delegation Meeting	Riverside Convention Center
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Opening Ceremonies	Riverside Convention Center
10:30 pm	Curfew in hotel rooms	At each housing location

Saturday, February 21

Time	Event	Location
6:00 am	Breakfast for All Athletes/Coaches	At each housing location
8:30 am	Floorball	Nazareth Golisano Training Center
9:00 am	Alpine Skiing & Snowboarding	Swain Ski Resort
9:00 am	Cross Country Skiing	Bristol Mountain, Top
9:30 am	Snowshoeing	Bristol Mountain, Top
10:00 am	Figure Skating	Tim Horton's Ice Complex
12:00 pm	Gymnastics	Town of Henrietta Recreation Dept.
10:30 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch Distribution to Athletes/Coaches	All Event Venues
5:30 pm – 6:45 pm	Victory Dinner	Riverside Convention Center
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Healthy Athletes	Riverside Convention Center
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Closing Ceremonies and Victory Dance	Riverside Convention Center
10:30 pm	Curfew in hotel rooms	At each housing location

Sunday, February 22

Time	Event	Location
6:30 am	Breakfast for All Athletes/Coaches	At each housing location
7:00 – 11:00am	Delegation Check-out	Hyatt Rochester

Venue	Location/ Address
Alpine Skiing & Snowboarding: Swain Mountain	2275 Co Rd 24, Swain, NY 14884
Cross County Skiing: Bristol Mountain Top	5589 S Hill Rd, Canandaigua, NY 14424
Figure Skating: Tim Horton's Ice Complex	2700 Brighton Henrietta Townline Rd, Rochester, NY 14623
Floorball: Nazareth Golisano Training Center	4245 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14618
Gymnastics: Town of Henrietta Recreation Dept	605 Calkins Rd., Henrietta, NY 14623
Snowshoe: Bristol Mountain Top	5589 S Hill Rd, Canandaigua, NY 14424
Control Center: Hyatt Rochester—2nd Floor	125 E Main St, Rochester, NY 14604
Opening/Closing Ceremonies, Healthy Athletes: Riverside Conv Ctr	123 E Main St, Rochester, NY 14604

Alpine Skiing & Snowboarding Competition Schedule

Schedule subject to change

Venue: Swain Mountain, 2275 Co Rd 24,
Swain, NY 14884



Sport Director: Martha Pachuta

2026 Alpine Skiing Schedule	
Time	
7:00 AM	Facility Open
7:00 AM	Venue Captain, Sport Director, Volunteer Check In Arrival - prep vols
8:00 AM	Volunteer Arrival
8:30 AM	Athlete Arrival
9:15 AM	Coaches Meeting/Course inspection
9:30 AM	Course inspection
10:00 AM	Time Trials - 1 run
	Novice - Giant Slalom
	Intermediate - Giant Slalom
	Advanced - Giant Slalom
	Final Round - 2 runs combined
	Novice - Giant Slalom
	Intermediate - Giant Slalom
Advanced - Giant Slalom	
11:30 AM- 12:30 PM	Lunch/ Reset all courses
12:30 PM	Final Round - 2 runs combined
	Novice - Slalom
	Intermediate - Slalom
Advanced - Slalom	
2:30 PM- 5:00PM	Awards

Cross Country Skiing I Competition Schedule

Schedule subject to change



Venue: Bristol Mountain Top, 5589 S Hill Rd,
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Sport Director: Larry Johnson

2026 Cross Country Skiing I	
Time	Event
8:30AM	Facility Open
	Venue Captain & Volunteer Check-In Crew Arrival
9:00 AM	Sport Director Arrival
	Volunteer Arrival
10:00AM	Athlete Arrival
10:30AM	Coaches Meeting
	1K Freestyle
	5K Freestyle
12:00-1pm	Lunch
	500M Freestyle
	2.5K Freestyle
2:00 PM	Awards

Cross Country Skiing II Competition Schedule



2026 Cross Country Skiing II	
Time	Event
7:30 AM	Facility Open
8:00 AM	Sports Director, Venue Captain & Volunteer Check In Arrival
8:30 AM	Volunteer Arrival
9:30 AM	Athlete Arrival
9:45 AM	Coaches Meeting-XC Skiing Level 2
10:00 AM	Coaches Meeting-Snowshoe
Following Coaches Meeting until ~10:45 AM	XC Ski Level 2 Prelims
	400M Prelims
	50M Prelims
	25M Prelims
	10M Prelims
10:45 AM until ~12:30 PM	Snowshoe Prelims
	400M Prelims
	50M Prelims
	100M Prelims
	200M Prelims
Lunches Available - 11 AM	25M Prelims
12:30 PM estimated start	XC Ski Level 2 Finals
	100M Finals
	50M Finals
	25M Finals
	10M Finals
After XC Finals - 3pm	Snowshoe Finals
	400M Finals
	50M Finals
	100M Finals
	200M Finals
	25M Finals
12:30PM - 3:30 PM	4x100M Relay Finals
	Awards

NEW VENUE - BRISTOL 12
MOUNTAIN - SELEW

Figure Skating Competition Schedule

Schedule subject to change



Venue: Tim Horton's Ice Complex
2700 Brighton Henrietta Townline Rd, Rochester, NY
14623

Sport Director: Karalee Piels

2026 Figure Skating Schedule	
Time	Event
7:00 AM	Facility Open
7:15 AM	Sport Director & Venue Captain Arrival Time
7:45 AM	Volunteer Check-In Arrival
8:15 AM	Volunteer Arrival
8:30 AM	Athlete Arrival
8:45 AM	Coaches Meeting
9:00 AM-9:15 AM	Warm-Ups
9:15 AM-12:45 PM	Skills prelims
	L 1-3 prelims
	L 4-6 Short Programs
	Lunch/Ice Cut (11:30AM)
	Dance
	Skills Finals
	L 1-3 Finals
	L 4-6 Finals
12:45 PM-1:45 PM	Awards
2:00 PM	Must be off ice

Floorball Team Competition Schedule

Schedule subject to change



Venue: Nazareth Golisano Training Center, 4245 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14618

Sport Director: Nancy Logan

On arrival, please note special instructions for hang out areas vs lunch areas. There is NO FOOD allowed in the arena.

Please follow guidance from the volunteers. Lunch tables are located in the hallway and turf area.

No seating near team benches—accessible seating areas will be identified on site.

2026 Floorball Team Schedule	
Time	Event
6:00 AM	Facility Open, Start of Setup
7:30 AM	Volunteer Check-In arrival (earlier for skills)
7:45 AM	Sport Director & Venue Captain Arrival
8:45 AM	Athlete Arrival
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Pairing Games
9:30 AM	Volunteer arrival
After Pairing Games	Coaches Meeting
10:15-4:00 PM	Team Competitions
2:00 PM-4:30 PM	Awards (as divisions finish)

Floorball Skills Competition Schedule

Schedule subject to change



Venue: Nazareth Golisano Training Center, 4245 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14618

Sport Director: Rami Aizenman

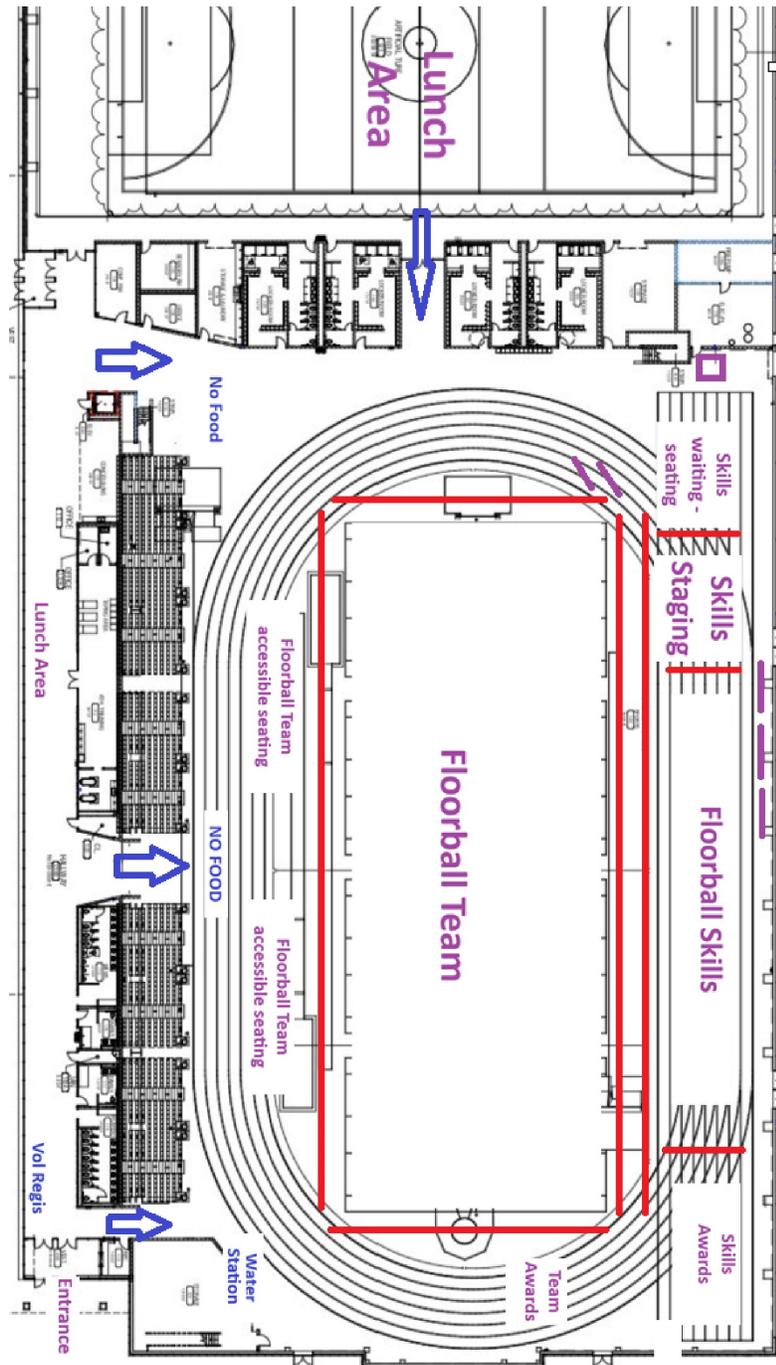
On arrival, please note special instructions for hang out areas vs lunch areas. There is NO FOOD allowed in the arena.

Please follow guidance from the volunteers. Lunch tables are located in the hallway and turf area. See diagram

Coaches, seating is available near staging. Please check in at the Skills staff desk for your detailed schedule and keep an eye on staging so you're ready when your athletes are called.

2026 Floorball Skills Schedule	
Time	Event
7:00 AM	Venue Captain, Sport Director Arrival & Setup
7:30 AM	Volunteer Check-In Arrival
8:00 AM	Volunteer Arrival
8:45 AM	Athlete Arrival
9:15 AM	Coaches Meeting
9:45AM	Prelims
11:30 AM	Lunch
12:30 PM	Finals
2:00 PM	Awards

Floorball Team and Skills Setup



Gymnastics Competition Schedule

Schedule subject to change



Venue: Town of Henrietta Recreation Dept,
605 Calkins Rd., Henrietta, NY 14623

Sport Director: Sarah Jane Clifford

2026 Gymnastics Schedule	
Time	Event
9:00 AM	Facility open
11:00 AM	Sport Director Venue Captain & Volunteer Check-In Arrival
	Lunch Volunteer Arrival
11:00 AM	Athlete Arrival
	Lunch
12:00 PM	Athlete Warm up / Competition Volunteer arrival
12:00 PM	Coaches Meeting
1:00 PM / 1:10PM	March in / National Anthem
1:15 PM	Competition Begins
4:00 PM	Athletes Depart

Snowshoe Competition



2026 Snowshoe

Time	Event
7:30 AM	Facility Open
8:00 AM	Sport Director, Venue Captain & Volunteer Check In Arrival
8:30 AM	Volunteer Arrival
9:30 AM	Athlete Arrival
9:45 AM	Coaches Meeting-XC Skiing Level 2
10:00 AM	Coaches Meeting-Snowshoe
XC Ski Level 2 Prelims	
Following Coaches Meeting until ~10:45 AM	100M Prelims
	50M Prelims
	25M Prelims
	10M Prelims
Snowshoe Prelims	
10:45 AM until ~12:30 PM	400M Prelims
	50M Prelims
	100M Prelims
	200M Prelims
	25M Prelims
Lunches Available - 11 AM	
XC Ski Level 2 Finals	
12:30 PM estimated start	100M Finals
	50M Finals
	25M Finals
	10M Finals
Snowshoe Finals	
After XC Finals ~ 2pm	400M Finals
	50M Finals
	100M Finals
	200M Finals
	25M Finals
	4x100M Relay Finals
12:30PM - 3:30 PM	Awards

NEW VENUE - BRISTOL 12
MOUNTAIN - SEI PAGE 12

Snowshoe & Cross Country Schedule NO SNOW PLAN

Schedule subject to change



Bristol Mountain Top, 5589 S Hill Rd,
Canandaigua, NY 14424
Sport Directors: Harry King

2026 Snowshoe & Cross Country Skiing Level 2 Schedule	
Time	Event
7:30 AM	Facility Open
8:00 AM	Sport Director, Venue Captain & Volunteer Check In Arrival
8:30 AM	Volunteer Arrival
9:30 AM	Athlete Arrival
9:45 AM	Coaches Meeting-XC Skiing Level 2
10:00 AM	Coaches Meeting-Snowshoe
Following Coaches Meeting until ~10:45 AM	XC Ski Level 2 Prelims
	100M Prelims
	50M Prelims
	25M Prelims
	10M Prelims
10:45 AM until ~12:30 PM	Snowshoe Prelims
	400M Prelims
	50M Prelims
	100M Prelims
	200M Prelims
	25M Prelims
Lunches Available - 11 AM	
12:30 PM estimated start	XC Ski Level 2 Finals
	100M Finals
	50M Finals
	25M Finals
	10M Finals
After XC finals -3pm	Snowshoe Finals
	400M Finals
	50M Finals
	100M Finals
	200M Finals
	25M Finals
	4x100M Relay Finals
12:30PM - 3:30 PM	Awards

Control Center

The EMS volunteers at Summer Games will provide 24 hour coverage for all athletes and coaches in attendance. You, as a coach, serve as the liaison between medical volunteers and your athletes. Special Olympics NY encourages you to handle any minor situation you can.

Medical volunteers are available at all competition, housing, and special event venues throughout games. If you are unable to immediately locate the medical volunteer, call the Control Center. Each venue will have radio communication to call for medical assistance.



Emergency Protocol

Control Center: (315) 320-7820
Hyatt Rochester, 125 E Main St, Rochester, NY
2nd Floor, Regency Ballroom
All Others: 911

Remember if you are using a cell phone from outside the area you must dial the area code. The area code for the area is **(585)**.

Emergencies should be reported IMMEDIATELY to the police, who will dispatch assistance as needed and you should then contact the Control Center.

The following types of incidents should be reported directly to the police:

Serious or Life Threatening Situations - accidents, injuries or situations where participants have been seriously harmed. This includes transports to the hospital for all injuries, admissions to the hospital, etc.

Potentially Dangerous or Hazardous Situations - such as extreme cold, overcrowding, severe weather, etc. which requires immediate action and response to avoid serious damage or harm to participants.

Report of Serious Crime - including allegations of crimes involving force, sexual misconduct, controlled substances and/or those which threaten the health and safety of participants.

BUS SCHEDULE

Competition Day ONLY - February 21st

Pick up location is in front of the hotels.
Departure times are listed, DO NOT arrive late, the bus will be leaving at the times below.

Please plan to arrive 5-10 mins prior to the time listed and fill first bus to capacity.

Busses are not shuttles and the sport specific teams need to leave together.

These are all School Busses—check with your regional staff for the type of vehicle you should be taking as some transportation is also done by them.



Alpine	Hotel	Departure Time
Bus 1 - Capital	Marriott Airport 1890 W Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY 14615	730 AM
Bus 2 - Southern Tier & Central	Woodcliff Hotel 199 Woodcliff Drive, Fairport, NY 14450	730 AM

Cross County I	Hotel	Departure Time
Central	Woodcliff Hotel 199 Woodcliff Drive, Fairport, NY 14450	745 AM

BUS SCHEDULE CONT.
Competition Day ONLY - February 21st

Floorball	Hotel	Departure Time
Floorball - Genesee	Hilton: 155 E Main St, Rochester, NY 14604	840 AM

Gymnastics	Hotel	Departure Time
Capital	Marriott Airport 1890 W Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY 14615	1030 AM

**Snowshoe and Cross Country II will
be sharing busses.**

**Please load sport equipment into the
back of the bus.**

Snowshoe & Cross Country II	Hotel	Departure Time
Bus 1 - Southern Tier	Woodcliff Hotel 199 Woodcliff Drive, Fairport, NY 14450	815 AM
Bus 2 - Capital, North Country & Hudson Valley	Marriott Airport 1890 W Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY 14615	815 AM
Bus 3 - Western	Holiday Inn Express Rochester Greece: 1635 W Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY 14615	815 AM

Meals

Dinners:

Friday, February 20th - 4:30-6:45

Saturday, February 21st - 5:30-6:45

Dinners will be located on the 1st floor of the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. Coaches should monitor the amount of food & beverages athletes are consuming. Everyone must bus their own dishes to the designated tray return station when they exit the dining area.

Dinners are for the Athletes and Coaches only. Check in will be done at the door—please be prepared to show credentials/wristbands.

Steps to enjoying your Friday evening:

1. Arrive on site & go straight to dinner,
2. Enjoy your dinner
3. Visit performance Stations on the lower level
4. At 6:45PM head to athlete line up for staging for Opening Ceremonies which starts at 7
5. Find your region sign for Athlete line up and get ready for Opening Ceremonies!

Breakfast:

A hot breakfast will be served at each hotel location.

Lunch:

**Eat where you compete!
Lunches served at each sport venue**



Hotel Information

Delegation	Hotel
Southern Tier Region-Area 14	Woodcliff Hotel 199 Woodcliff Drive, Fairport, NY 14450
Capital District Region	Marriott Airport: 1890 W Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY 14615
North Country-Area 26	Marriott Airport: 1890 W Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY 14615
North Country-Area 27	Marriott Airport: 1890 W Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY 14615
Central Region	Woodcliff Hotel 199 Woodcliff Drive, Fairport, NY 14450
Genesee Region	Hilton: 155 E Main St, Rochester, NY 14604
Hudson Valley Region	Marriott Airport: 1890 W Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY 14615
Long Island Region	Hyatt Regency: 125 E Main St, Rochester, NY 14604
NYC Region	Hyatt Regency: 125 E Main St, Rochester, NY 14604
Western Region	Holiday Inn Express Rochester Greece: 1635 W Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY 14615



Protest Procedure

Protests on sports rules infractions may be filed by notifying the Sport Director at each venue. Please remember that judgment calls, heating, divisioning, etc., are not protestable.



Protest forms must be completed and turned in to the Sport Director at each venue, who will then page the necessary individuals for deliberation.

Protest must be lodged no later than 30 minutes following the event. In the case of team sports, officials must be notified of a protest at the point of contention, with the remainder of the games being played under protest.

Whenever possible, awards presentations will be held until resolution of the protest. Should awards be distributed prior to the resolution, and the outcome of the protest results in different awards placements, duplicate awards will be presented. Awards will not be taken away from an athlete once received in the awards ceremony.

Proper Competition attire

Please be aware that we will be following Special Olympic General Rules which clearly states that “proper attire is required for all or our competitions”. If coaches have any questions about what constitutes “proper attire” please review sports rules found for each sport at www.specialolympics.org

Be aware, not wearing proper attire is grounds for automatic disqualification from competition. Let’s all be proactive and avoid any unfortunate incidents.

Cold Weather Protocols



Brrrrr its been a **COLD winter and we are keeping a close eye on those temperatures!**

If any changes are necessary, your HOD will be notified by the Control Center and will relay that information to coaches.

	RealFeel (wind chill) above 40 degrees	Full activity. No restrictions
R E C O M M E N D E D	Wind Chill Caution: RealFeel (wind chill) 36 degrees to 20 degrees	Stay adequately hydrated. Notify coaches of the threat of cold related illnesses. Have students and coaches dress in layers of clothing.
	Wind Chill Watch: RealFeel (wind chill) 19 degrees to 10 degrees	Stay adequately hydrated. Notify coaches of the threat of cold related illnesses. Have students and coaches dress in layers of clothing. Cover the head and neck to prevent heat loss.
	Wind Chill Warning: RealFeel (wind chill) 9 degrees to -10 degrees	Stay adequately hydrated. Notify coaches of the threat of cold related illnesses. Have students and coaches dress in layers of clothing. Cover the head and neck to prevent heat loss. Consider postponing practice to a time when RealFeel temp is much higher. Consider reducing the amount of time for an outdoor practice session.
	REQUIRED Wind Chill Alert: RealFeel (wind chill) -11 degrees or lower	No outside activity, practice or contest, should be held.



NO ALCOHOL

The consumption of alcohol by all persons associated with Special Olympics New York is prohibited from the time of departure for the event, until arrival back at your Region/Area.

NO SMOKING

As part of the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes effort, Special Olympics New York has been designated Tobacco Free. Smoking and use of other tobacco products (such as snuff and chew) will not be permitted at any Special Olympics training or competition, except in specific designated outdoor area.



Anyone found using tobacco will be asked to stop.

Emergency Protocols

Non-emergency incidents should be reported directly to the Control Center. Types of incidents that should be reported to the Control Center are as follows:

Violations - of SONY's policy on the strict prohibition of Alcohol by all people associated with any event which involves athletes in training or competition.

Media Exposure - any situation or complaint which may result in negative or controversial media exposure and will require implementation of SONY's Crisis Communication Plan. This would typically be disgruntled volunteers, spectators, parents, etc., any type of boycott/demonstration, etc. Please ALSO notify the police.

Other Incidents/Situations - which may not be of an emergency nature, but should be reported in the event an incident report needs to be filed, as well as for information/communication purposes should the situation arise again.

Hotel Emergency Evacuations—whether emergency or drills, when the alarm sounds safely exit the building using the nearest safe stairwell. **Do not use elevators. Evacuations are mandatory.** Do not take time to gather personal belongings.



LEAVE THE BUILDING

1. Follow the signs and exit the building as quickly and safely as possible and proceed away from the building.
2. Once outside the building follow all instructions given to you.

The Head of Delegation and/or On-Call Regional Staff Member should report any missing persons or injuries to the emergency responders; Fire Department, etc. SONY Medical protocol will then follow.

NO ONE MAY NOT RE-ENTER THE BUILDING UNTIL IT IS DECLARED SAFE BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND THEY HAVE AUTHORIZED RE-ENTRY.

Delegation Check-in

Only Head of Delegations should report to Check-In located in the lower lobby of the Marriott Downtown Hotel. Athletes and coaches should not be entering the hotel. Head of Delegation or Program Representative must identify themselves and will have to visit each station prior to leaving the check-in area. Below are instructions for the process.

STATION “A” - Adds and Scratches Directions

Station “A” is where we check adds and scratches. A "Scratch" is someone who is no longer part of the delegation and will no longer be in attendance. An “add” is someone who is listed as an alternate who is being “added” to participate in an event. In order to activate an “alternate” someone must be scratched from the original team roster. Please clearly communicate and ensure understanding of the onsite staff who is being scratched and who is being added. It is also very important to communicate that the alternates you are not activating should be scratched from GMS.

STATION “B” - State Games Registration check point

Station “B” is where Delegation Registrations forms are checked.

Each HOD / Program Rep. will review the submitted Delegation registration forms with delegation check in to ensure all effective dates are entered in GMS and that all required paperwork has been submitted to the Share point.

STATION “C” - Competition Review

HOD/Program Rep. will stop at Station C to review and verify the competition data that includes all Divisioning Criteria, Team sizes, Athlete Partner Ratios, and proper skill level selection. Any changes to competition registration should occur at this station.

STATION “D” - "Nurse - Medications and HOD Phone Check"

HOD's are to stop at Station C to confirm that the onsite medical personnel has the correct contact number. EMS should be able to reach HOD's mobile phone Via text or call at all times during state games events.

STATION “E” - Housing

Check in with Lauren for any housing questions or turn in any hotel rooms for scratches.



Spectator Code of Conduct

As fans (family, friends, and supporters) of Special Olympics athletes, it is expected that everyone will play a positive role at Special Olympics New York events by following this code of conduct:

- ◆ Refrain from using abusive or offensive language towards anyone: officials, coaches, opponents and fellow spectators.
- ◆ Remember that athletes are amateur athletes, and the coaches and officials are volunteers.
- ◆ Understanding the rules will lead to a more positive experience at the event. All Special Olympics sports follow the designated National Governing Body (NGB) rules and any exceptions or modifications to those rules are included in the Special Olympics New York sports handbook.
- ◆ Keep in mind the Special Olympics oath and remember that winning is not the emphasis of Special Olympics competition.
- ◆ Allow coaches to do the coaching. Please refrain from shouting instructions to athletes.
- ◆ Stay out of the competition areas. Only registered coaches, athletes and officials should be in the playing area.
- ◆ Display good sportsmanship. Derogatory comments directed to players, coaches, and officials will not be tolerated.
- ◆ Follow instructions or directives given by officials, volunteers, or Special Olympics personnel.
- ◆ Refrain from any form of personal abuse (verbal, physical, emotional, etc.) towards coaches, athletes, unified partners, volunteers, spectators, family members, etc. Such behavior will not be tolerated by Special Olympics.

Any spectator who fails to follow directives given by volunteers, officials, or Special Olympics staff members or does not adhere to the code of conduct items above will be reprimanded. A reprimand may include any of the following consequences:

1. Verbal warning and conduct expectations reviewed
2. Escorted from the venue
3. Banned from attending future events for a given period of time
4. Permanently banned from attending any Special Olympics activity



2026 WINTER GAMES FEEDBACK SURVEY

ATHLETES, UNIFIED PARTNERS, COACHES, SPORT ASSISTANTS/CHAPERONES, HODs, SPORT DIRECTORS AND VENUE CAPTAINS

AT THE END OF GAMES, PLEASE USE YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA TO FILL OUT THE SURVEY BELOW

SCAN ME!



**Special
Olympics**
New York

THANK YOU, WE HOPE YOU
HAD A GREAT TIME!

Autographs

