



**Special Olympics
Unified Champion
Schools**

Regional & State Championships Info Webinar

2025-2026

A large red and white chevron graphic is positioned on the right side of the slide, pointing towards the text. The background features a dark, slightly blurred image of a running track and field stadium.

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Meeting Agenda

- ✓ Advancement to PIAA/SOPA State Championships
 - ✓ League > Regionals > States
- ✓ Regional Competitions
- ✓ PIAA/SOPA State Championships
- ✓ Letter of Intent
- ✓ FAQ
- ✓ Questions

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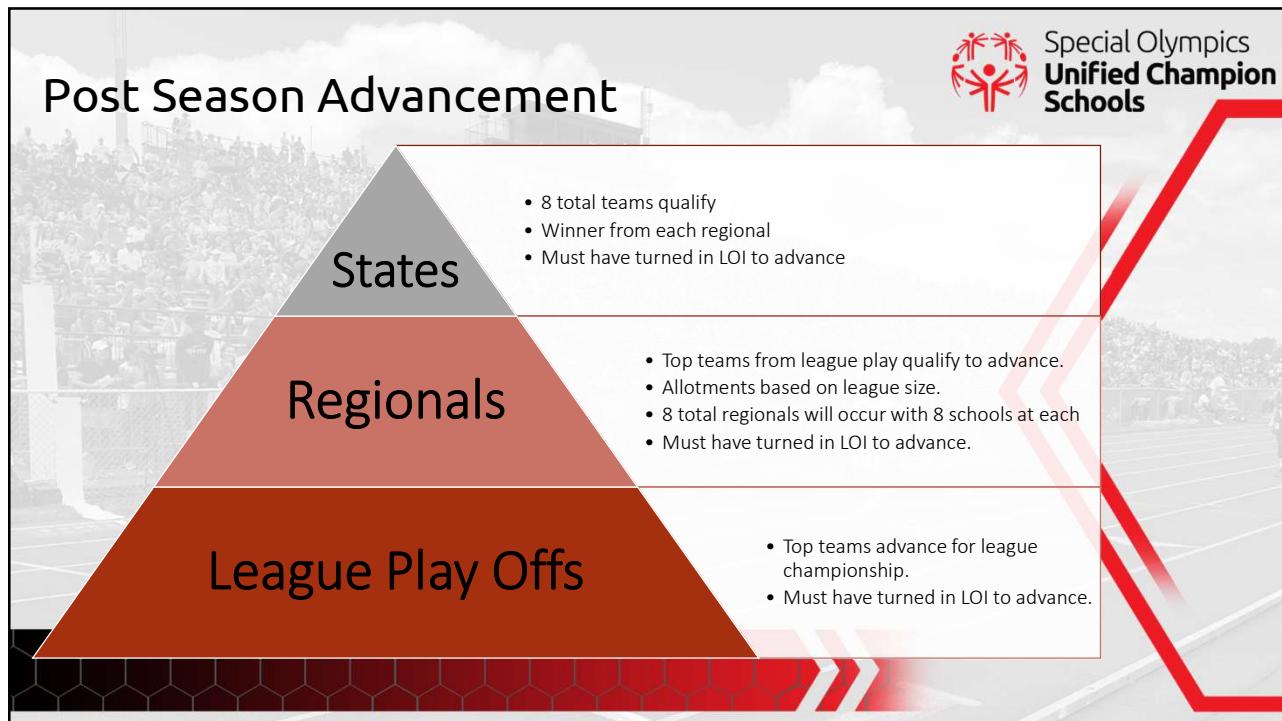


**Special Olympics
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ADVANCEMENT

How does your team move from league play to the State Championship?

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This section is titled "Letter of Intent" in a large, bold, black font. Below the title is a bulleted list of instructions. To the right of the list is the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools logo. The background of this section is a photograph of a running track and stadium, with a red and white chevron-style arrow pointing to the right at the bottom. The bottom of the slide features a decorative border with a hexagonal pattern and a red arrow pointing to the right.

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Letter of Intent



2025 IUS INDOOR BOCCCE CHAMPIONSHIP ADVANCEMENT LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)



This LOI is for Regional & State Championships. Each Team must be listed below and place a X in the yes or no box for attending. If your team is interested in advancing, they must be willing to attend both competitions. So, if you attend Regionals, you must attend State if you qualify.

By placing an X in the **YES** box with the principal's signature, your school understands that you will be attending the Regional Championships and if chosen will attend the PIAA/SOPA State Championships in Hershey.

By placing an X in the **NO** box with the principal's signature, your school understands that you will not be attending either the Regional or State Championships.

County	High School	Team Name	YES, we want to attend all levels of post season from leagues – states.	NO, we will not be playing in the post season competitions.

Name of person completing form _____ Date _____

Principal Signature _____ Date _____

Please Print Name _____

The LOI **MUST** be signed by your principal and emailed to your UCS SOPA liaison by the end of the day Friday, January 16th

4P | Special Olympics Pennsylvania



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League Playoffs

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- Your SOPA Liaison will reach out with your specific League Playoff plan and schedule.
- There will be representation at every league at the regional level.
- Not all teams/schools will qualify for league championships. YES LOI REQUIRED
- These will take place following regular season.

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Regions

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Regionals (March 2 – 10)



- 8 hosted across the state with 64 teams competing
- Each league is assigned to a regional play off site
- All day events, buses will not be back for dismissal
- Competition will take place during the school day
- Lunch and snacks will be provided

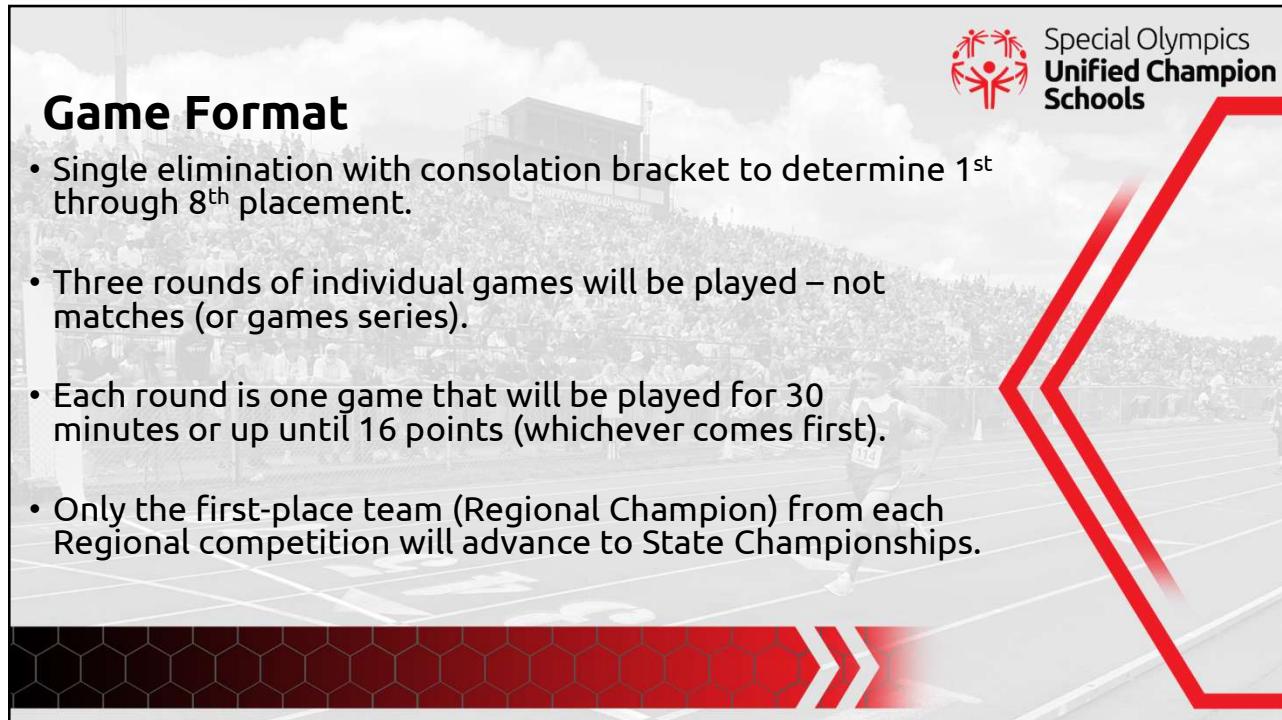
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Regional Competitions Groupings



- One team from each of the eight regional championship events will advance to the State Championship for our **FINAL EIGHT!**
- *Each league has been assigned a regional location.*
- *Assignments are tentative until LOIs are received.*
- ***No LOIs will be accepted after 5pm on January 16th***
- *You received this document from your liaison in an email*

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Game Format

- Single elimination with consolation bracket to determine 1st through 8th placement.
- Three rounds of individual games will be played – not matches (or games series).
- Each round is one game that will be played for 30 minutes or up until 16 points (whichever comes first).
- Only the first-place team (Regional Champion) from each Regional competition will advance to State Championships.

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State Championship

March 18th & 19th in
Hershey, PA

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SOPA Required Paperwork

- Athletes should be housed with Athletes and Partners with Partners
- **Males/Females MUST be housed separately;** exception approved 1:1s (if not legal guardian will need written consent from legal guardian)
- Participants 18 years of age and under may stay 4 to a room. All rooms have double beds.
- Participants 19 years of age and over may stay 2 to a room.
- Each school will be limited to the number of rooms they can utilize.
- **Coaches/Nurses** - May be housed 1 per room

The logo for Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools. It features a red graphic on the left consisting of three stylized human figures in a circle, with their arms raised. To the right of the graphic, the text "Special Olympics" is written in a black, sans-serif font. Below that, the words "Unified Champion" are written in a larger, bold black font. Underneath "Unified Champion", the words "Schools" are written in a slightly smaller black font.

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SOPA Required Paperwork

- All approved 1:1s (parents/guardians/nurses/etc.)
MUST complete **SOPA Class A Volunteer paperwork** and have background clearances to be roomed with an athlete.
 - A link will be provided to complete this process- **IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE SURE CLASS A IS SELECTED (not class B).**

The logo for Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools. It features a red stylized graphic of three human figures in a circle, with the top figure pointing upwards and the bottom figure pointing downwards. To the right of the graphic, the text "Special Olympics" is written in a black, sans-serif font. Below that, the words "Unified Champion" are in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font. Underneath "Unified Champion", the word "Schools" is written in a slightly smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font.

2026 Unified Indoor Bocce State Championship
Team Housing Form ~ Coach and Staff Form

High School: _____

Role = HC - Head Coach, AC - Assistant Coach, 1:1 - SOPA Approved 1:1*, BUS - Bus Driver, N - Nurse
 *Please contact your SOPA Liaison if you have any questions on 1:1's.

All 1:1's must have PA Police Check and Child Abuse clearances.

If an approved 1:1 does not have clearances, contact your SOPA Liaison ASAP!

Room #	Name	Role	Gender	PA Police Check	PA Child Abuse	Special Needs (wheelchair, Walker)	Dietary restrictions
1							
2							
2							
3							
3							
4							
4							

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2026 Special Olympics Bocce

Hershey, Pennsylvania
Thursday, March 19, 2026

**GIANT CENTER
BOX LUNCH ORDER FORM**
Due to SOPA Liaison on March 11, 2026

Competing School: _____
(10 Students + 1:1 if approved & Coaches)

Item	Quantity
Roast Beef & Cheddar on a Potato Roll with Horseradish Aioli	
Ham & Swiss on a Pretzel Roll with Dijon Mustard	
Chicken Salad on a Croissant	
Chicken Caesar Wrap Grilled Chicken with romaine lettuce, parmesan cheese and light Caesar Dressing served on a whole wheat wrap.	
Grilled Veggie Wrap Zucchini, Squash, Peppers, Red Onions, Carrots, Tomato, Edamame, with pesto Hummus in a spinach Tortilla Wrap	
OR SALAD CHOICE	
Chef Salad Southwest Chicken Mixed Greens, grilled chicken, black beans, corn, pepper jack cheese, tomatoes, red onion	
Chicken Caesar Chopped Romaine, Grilled Chicken, Garlic Croutons, Parmesan Cheese	
Dressing:	# of Dressing Packets
Cesar	
Ranch	
Italian	
Balsamic Vinaigrette	



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**Lunch Form
Due: March 11th**

- Lunch will be provided
- Remember to include Bus Drivers and approved 1:1's

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PIAA/SOPA State Championships

- **Dates:** **Wednesday, March 18th – Thursday, March 19th**
- **Location:** **Hershey, PA**
 - **Wednesday evening, March 18** – Teams arrive at the Days Inn Hershey no later than 5:30 pm.
 - Special Olympics will house all teams.
 - Days Inn by Wyndham Hershey, 350 West Chocolate Ave, Hershey PA, 17033
 - **Thursday morning, March 19** – GIANT Center, 550 Hersheypark Dr., Hershey, PA 17033



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Days Inn:



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Giant Center



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Wednesday Schedule: March 18

4:30 - 5:30 PM	Arrival	Days Inn Hershey
6:00 - 8:00 PM	Dinner & Activities	Location TBD
7:00 pm	Head Coaches Meeting	Location TBD
10:00 pm	Lights Out Hotels	

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Thursday Schedule: March 19



6:30 - 7:00 AM	Breakfast	Days Inn Hershey
7:30 AM	Teams Arrival	Giant Center
8:40 AM	Opening Ceremonies	Giant Center
9:00 AM	Competing Teams Begin Play	Giant Center



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Thursday Schedule: Giant Center



11:00 am	Competition ends	Center Court
11:10 am	Lunch is available in bleachers	Bleachers
12:30 pm (tentative)	Awards presentation (halftime of girls basketball game)	Center Court
1:00 pm	Teams may stay and watch PIAA basketball games or depart	

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PIAA/SOPA Championships

SPECIAL OLYMPICS PA WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING

- Competition management and coordination of all event logistics
- **Wednesday (March 18)** – Dinner, and housing in Hershey, PA
- **Thursday (March 19)** – Breakfast, lunch, competition, Opening Ceremony, Awards ceremony



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PIAA/SOPA Championships



YOUR SCHOOL WILL PROVIDE

- Transportation to, during and from Hershey
- 2 coaches (required ratio of 4 students to 1 adult per Special Olympics PA policy)
- Teams **MUST** have a **minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 team members from season roster**, no additions to the roster may be made
- All athletes **MUST** be dressed in proper uniform - Sneakers, pants & school polo
- Completed 2025-26 PIAA/SOPA Athlete Medical (must be the one provided to you from SOPA) for all athletes and partners on file with their school.

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FAQ

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Can our 2nd Team attend?



- Yes.
 - But your school is responsible for meals, travel, and housing.
 - If you decide to bring them you can do the following:
 - Reimburse SOPA for - Housing, and meals.
 - Complete separate housing and meal forms.



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Support Staff



- If the student has a 1:1 or paraprofessional during the school day, then yes, you may bring them to the Championships.
- Due to medical conditions of team members nurses may also be included in your team numbers and housing for Championships.

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Spectators/Families



- Welcome to attend Thursday competition.
- Families are responsible for their own transportation, housing and food.
 - *Please note that the Giant Center is a cashless facility – only credit cards are accepted or cash can be exchanged in a reverse ATM*
- Families are not charged entrance fees for competition at the Giant Center.
 - Just tell the ushers you are here for bocce.

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QUESTIONS?

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