



1



2




Special Olympics
**Unified Champion
Schools**

ADVANCEMENT

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

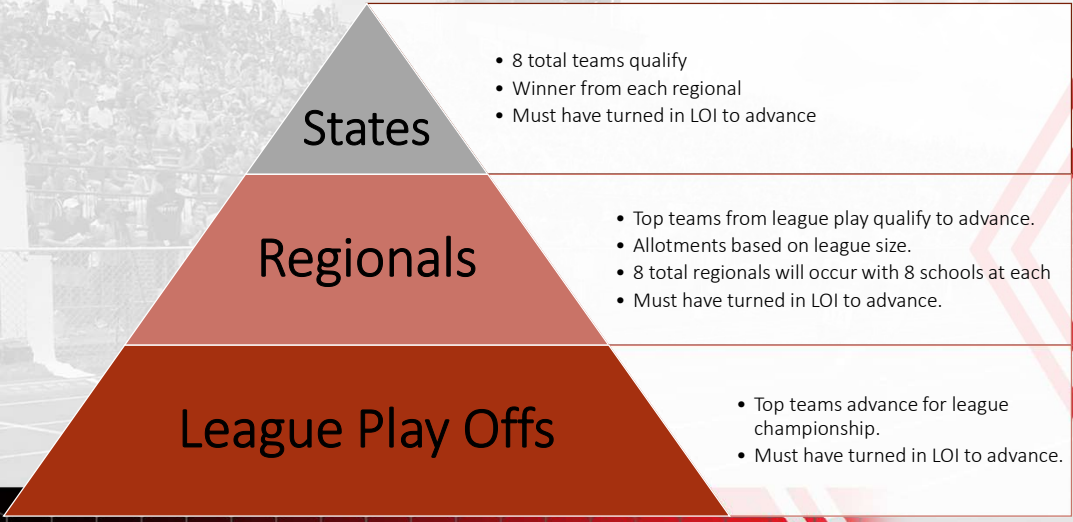


3



Special Olympics
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Post Season Advancement



States

- 8 total teams qualify
- Winner from each regional
- Must have turned in LOI to advance

Regionals

- Top teams from league play qualify to advance.
- Allotments based on league size.
- 8 total regionals will occur with 8 schools at each
- Must have turned in LOI to advance.

League Play Offs

- Top teams advance for league championship.
- Must have turned in LOI to advance.

4



5

 A graphic providing details about the Letter of Intent. The background is a light gray image of a running track with a person running. In the top right corner, the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools logo is shown. The title "Letter of Intent" is in large, bold, black font. Below it is a bulleted list of requirements. A large, stylized red and white chevron points right, and a red hexagonal pattern is at the bottom.

Letter of Intent

- Due on **January 16th**
- The LOI **MUST** be signed by your principal
- Submit signed LOI to SOPA liaison
- PIAA/SOPA Packet with LOI, housing, & meals forms will be sent.
- Saying YES means saying YES to every level of post season.

6

Letter of Intent

2025 IUS INDOOR BOCCE 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 _____

Principal Signature _____

Please Print Name _____

Date _____

Date _____

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

44 | Special Olympics Pennsylvania

7



8



League Playoffs

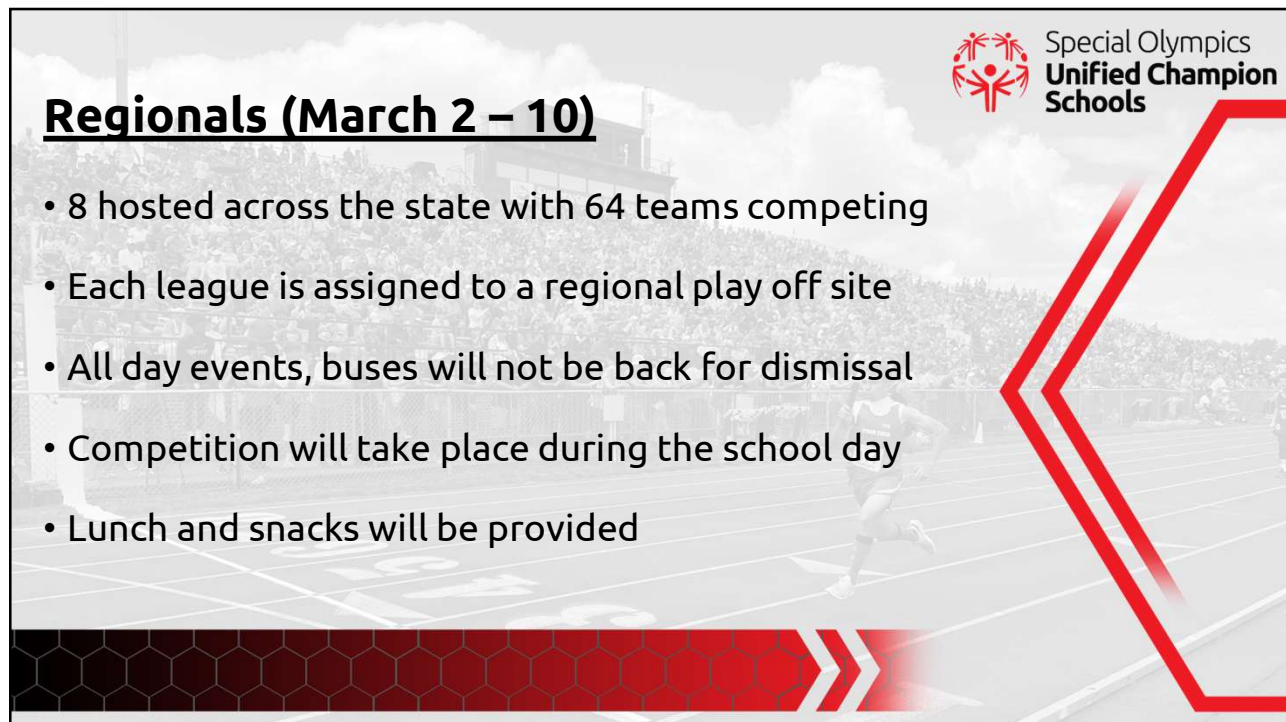
- Your SOPA Liaison will reach out with your specific League Playoff plan and schedule.
- There will be representation at every league at the regional level.
- Not all teams/schools will qualify for league championships. YES LOI REQUIRED
- These will take place following regular season.

9



Regionals

10



Regionals (March 2 – 10)

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- 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

11




Regional Competitions Groupings

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- 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*

12



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.

13



State Championship

March 18th & 19th in
Hershey, PA

14



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

[illegible]

15



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*).

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							
1							
2							
2							
3							
3							
4							
4							

16




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 <small>Grilled Chicken with romaine lettuce, parmesan cheese and light Caesar Dressing served on a whole wheat wrap.</small>	
Grilled Veggie Wrap <small>Zucchini, Squash, Peppers, Red Onions, Carrots, Tomato, Edamame, with pesto Hummus in a spinach Tortilla Wrap</small>	
OR SALAD CHOICE	
Chef Salad	
Southwest Chicken	
Mixed Greens, grilled chicken, black beans, corn, pepper jack cheese, tomatoes, red onion	
Chicken Cesar	
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

17

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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18

Days Inn:



Special Olympics
**Unified Champion
Schools**



19

Giant Center



Special Olympics
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20


**Special Olympics
Unified Champion Schools**

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	

21


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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




22

Thursday Schedule: Giant Center



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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	

23

PIAA/SOPA Championships



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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



24



PIAA/SOPA Championships

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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.

25



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FAQ

26

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.



27

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 include in your team numbers and housing for Championships.

28

Spectators/Families



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- 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.

29



30