

## 2015 STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Please read this 2016 State Basketball Tournament information closely and contact us if you have any questions.

### I. 2016 State Team Basketball Tournament Registration

Eligibility for the State Tournament will be based upon the following: submission of the team roster and registration fee of \$100.00 by January 7, 2016; and submission of three game scores on a "Basketball Game Rating Sheet" forms to your Area Director by January 21, 2016.

A. Coaches will submit the official team roster and registration fee of \$100.00 to the State Office by January 7, 2016. Checks should be made payable to Special Olympics Ohio. Purchase order forms will be accepted in lieu of the registration fee. Failure to submit the registration fee by January 7, 2016 will eliminate a team(s) from being divisioned for the State Tournament.

B. Players may appear on one roster only.

**1. You will need to submit copies of "Application for Participation" forms, "Guardian Release" forms, or "Partners Release" forms with your roster submission to the State Office.** These will be forwarded to the appropriate Section Director and follow you through the tournament.

2. You will also need to submit three game scores on the "Basketball Game Rating Sheet" to your Area Director by January 21, 2016. These game scores should be from head to head games with other registered Special Olympics basketball teams. You should fill out one "Basketball Game Rating Sheet" for each game. Failure to provide these forms to your Area Director by the January 21, 2016 date will eliminate a team from being divisioned for the State Tournament.

C. There will be no screening days this season.

### II. Basketball Rules and Procedures

Please refer to the basketball portion of the official Special Olympics Summer Sports Rules, revised March 2014.

A. You must register a roster minimum of eight (8) players. For unified teams, we recommend you register more.

B. All basketball play will follow OSHAA rules. Note: this includes the smaller size ball used for women's games and the three-second violation which will be enforced for all games. In addition, all Special Olympics teams are reminded that they play under the Special Olympics code of conduct which governs athletes, coaches and their spectators/fans. Coaches are asked to meet with and/or inform their families/fans of the Special Olympics spectator guidelines set forth in the Local Coordinator's Handbook. Local Coordinators and the coaches will be responsible for the behavior of both their teams and their fans.

C. Unified teams will follow OHSAA except that the team will consist of 3 Special Olympics athletes and 2 partners on the court. Also, a unified team can only have a maximum of 3 Special Olympics athletes and 2 partners on the court at all times. Unified teams must have a non-rostered, non-playing coach.

- D. Special Olympics Incorporated and our national governing body for basketball do not allow athletes in wheelchairs or who use walkers to participate in non-wheelchair basketball in Special Olympics competition at any level. If there is sufficient interest in wheelchair basketball, Special Olympics Ohio will offer wheelchair basketball competition in this sport in accordance with the national governing body for wheelchair basketball. Special Olympics Incorporated is currently reviewing the basketball rules regarding the eligibility of athletes who use wheelchairs or walkers to play basketball on wheelchair teams. If any changes to these eligibility rules are announced by Special Olympics Incorporated, Ohio will adopt those rules changes and allow for necessary roster additions at that time.

### III. Divisions

- A. Tentatively, Special Olympics Ohio plans to conduct the State Basketball Championships in the following divisions:

- Adult Male Divisions I, II, III, IV and V
- School Age Divisions I, and II
- Women's Divisions I, and II
- Unified Mens, School Age, and Women's Divisions\*

\*Multiple divisions in men's, school age, and women's unified teams will be created if the number of teams and the variation of ability warrant it.

1. School Age athletes must be under the age of 22 years. School Age may play on a men's division team, but adults (22 years and older) may not play on a school age division team. Note that the age of the player on August 1, 2015 will be used to determine school age/men's eligibility.
2. Women may play on men's division teams, but men may not play on women's division teams.

### IV. 2016 State Team Basketball Tournament Information

The pairings for the State Basketball Tournament will be made at all levels at a final divisioning meeting of Section Directors and state program staff in Columbus in late January. Format of the state tournament in each division is single elimination. For divisions that advance four teams to the Final State Championships in Columbus & Hilliard on March 18-19, 2016, there will be a consolation game for the losers of the semifinals.

- A. Each area will be allowed to advance a maximum of two basketball teams to Sectionals in a particular division. If there are three or more teams in a division within an area, the area will conduct an Area Tournament to determine the two qualifiers. The dates for all Area Tournaments will be early to mid February.

- B. Each section will conduct a Sectional Playoff in the divisions for which they have teams. If there is only one team in that division in the entire section, that team will be automatically placed in another section with team(s) in that division. Sectional champions will advance to the State championships (Final Four). Where there are only two or less sections conducting competition in a division, only two teams will advance to the State Finals. If a section does not have a team in a division, the section with the most teams in that division will advance two teams (Sectional winner and runner-up) to the State Championships. All Sectional Playoffs will be held in mid to late February.
- C. If there are three or less teams in any one division in the entire state, teams will playoff at the sectional level to determine a Sectional Champion and not advance to the finals at the State Championships.
- D. The Final Championships for Sectional Qualifiers will be held in Columbus & Hilliard on March 18-19, 2016.

V. 2016 Individual Skills Contest Early Information

- A. The State Individual Skills Contest will be held in Tuscarawas the same weekend as the team tournament championships. Entry forms for the Individual Skills Contest will be distributed at a later date and will have a due date of March 8, 2016.
- B. Skills athletes must qualify at an area basketball skills tournament to be eligible for the State Tournament. Contact your Area Director for area tournament dates. Athletes registered on team rosters are not eligible to enter the state individual skills contest.
- C. There will also be a per athlete fee of \$10.00 for the State Individual Skills Contest.