



TO: All Special Olympics Organizations  
FROM: Special Olympics Ohio  
DATE: November 9, 2016  
RE: 2017 Special Olympics Ohio State Winter Games

I. General Information

Special Olympics Ohio will hold the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Games, February 1-2, 2017 at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The national park is located between Akron and Cleveland (see attached map). We will offer sports competition in Alpine skiing, Nordic skiing and Ice skating. This year is a two-day format and a tentative two-day schedule is attached. Athletes who come to the State Winter Games should be in active weekly training programs. Please note that the Winter Games is governed by the “Official Special Olympics Winter Sports Rules” (revised June, 2016). **This new rules revision requires all Alpine skiers to wear protective helmets in all events and levels!** Please go online to the [specialolympics.org](http://specialolympics.org) web site to view the current winter sports rules. \*Also, this year all registered athletes, coaches, and chaperones will incur a \$45.00 registration fee. All those who registered will be eligible for the four meals offered over the two-day period.

\*This year, we are asking for figure skating entries only to be submitted by December 13, 2016\*. All other entry forms, rosters, organization registration forms and payments can be submitted by the January 12, 2017 deadline.

With this in mind, please read the following “Specific Information” and “Entry Information”. Please note that the games will extend over parts of two days. Also, we will require entry times for all Speed skating events and Nordic events (see cross country description). These entry score times will be used to group athletes more closely by ability in their time trials. For GMS users, you may contact Marty Allen, [allenspolly@aol.com](mailto:allenspolly@aol.com) at the state office so that you can submit your state entries via e-mail.

II. Sport Information and General Competition

Athletes may enter **one** of the sports listed below. \*Within each sport, an athlete may enter a maximum of two which includes individual and unified events. A partner may enter a maximum of one unified event. Coaches, please note that the separate locations for the three sports will necessitate transportation planning and adequate chaperone coverage by you.

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*Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities*

- A. Alpine Skiing – We will conduct Alpine skiing at Brandywine Ski Resort. There will be four competitive events: Slalom (traditional), Giant Slalom (traditional and unified), Downhill (traditional) and Glide (developmental). We will continue to offer the Unified Giant Slalom event as a “locally popular event in our state.” \*Alpine athletes can enter a total of two events which includes individual and unified. In addition, an alpine athlete may enter the traditional giant slalom or the unified giant slalom but not both. Please note that again this year, you **must** enter athletes in the glide at the time of registration. Athletes that cannot qualify during their time trials in any event at any level will not advance to finals. All alpine athletes will be division on Wednesday, utilizing a modified giant slalom course for time trials at each level. Be sure to enter your alpine athlete into the appropriate level. Competition in the glide and slalom finals will be Wednesday after time trials. Competition in the unified giant slalom finals, giant slalom finals, and downhill finals will be Thursday. Organizations entered in the unified alpine event will have the opportunity to make substitutions to their unified teams at the time of alpine check-in on Wednesday. After time trials, no substitutions or changes to the unified teams will be allowed. Organizations entering unified events must have a non-competing head alpine coach to represent their organization.

Number Gates per event

	<u>Advanced</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>	<u>Beginner</u>
Slalom	20-45	15-30	5-15
Giant Slalom	20-40	15-30	5-15
Downhill	15-35	10-20	5-12

**Important:** Be sure your partners are experienced skiers who can ski the level in which they are entered and are able to use ski lifts/chairs.

**Equipment Rule:** A helmet appropriate for alpine skiing shall be required for **all alpine events (at all levels)** and training for athletes and partners. Helmet selection should be made with the help of a knowledgeable alpine coach or ski shop employee (article II, section C.1).

- B. Cross Country Skiing – We will hold Cross Country skiing at the Brandywine Tubing area. There will be four (4) traditional events: 100 Meters, 500 Meters, 1 Kilometer, and 3 Kilometer. We will also offer one unified event; 4 x 1 Kilometer Unified Relay which consists of two athletes and two partners each skiing one leg or 1 kilometer of the relay. Athletes may enter a total of two events which includes individual and unified. On Wednesday, all time trials will be held; a 100 meter time trial for athletes in that event and a 500 meter test for athletes in all other events. This year, we will require 100 meter entry times for cross country athletes entered in that event. Also, any athlete or partner entered in any of the other cross country events must submit a 500 meter time.

Organizations entered in the unified relay will have the opportunity to make substitutions on Wednesday at the time of check-in (before time trials). After time trials, no substitutions will be allowed.

Individual awards from cross country will be presented at the hotel after dinner on Wednesday and at Brandywine on Thursday.

All athletes entered in the Winter Games should be in active winter training programs. Skiers entered in the 1K, 3K and unified Nordic events should be experienced and prepared for those distances. Any athlete unable to complete, during time trials or finals, the 100 meter in 7 minutes, the 500 meter in 25 minutes, the 1 kilometer in 30 minutes, the 3 kilometer in 60 minutes will be removed from the race course and disqualified. In addition, any athlete whose constant falling and/or unprepared conditioning become a threat to the safety of that athlete or other athletes will be removed from the course.

C. Ice Skating - Ice Skating will be held at the Kent State Ice Arena. Transportation will be your responsibility.

1. Speed Skating – There will be six traditional competitive events; 100 Meter, 300 Meter, 500 Meter, 800 Meter, 1,000 Meter and 1,500 Meter, all independent and three developmental events 100 Meter Assisted, 50 Meter Half Lap and 25 Meter Straightaway. In addition, there will also be one unified event. Athletes may enter a maximum of two events. All events will be held on the curved track. All speed skating will be final events based upon entry times. Speed Skating competition will be on Wednesday. Organizations with unified teams will have the opportunity to make substitutions at the time of check-in on Wednesday. A time trial in unified will be held prior to the start of the finals. Finals in the unified event will be at the end of the speed skating finals. Athletes in figure skating **may not** enter a speed skating event.

\*\*Please note that the official Special Olympics Winter Sports Rules for ice skating requires the following **safety equipment** for speed skaters: “Speed skaters should wear long sleeve and long legged uniforms, kneepads, shin guards, Kevlar neck protector, gloves or mittens of protective nature, and an appropriate safety helmet which shall have a hard shell and a chin strap.” Elbow pads are optional equipment (revised June, 2016). Organizations will be responsible for supplying this equipment for their skaters.

2. Unified Events – The 20 Lap Unified Relay will not be offered this year.

**\*\*Maximum Times:** A maximum time for entering the 100 Meter and 300 Meter events have been set for the 2017 State Winter Games. Athletes must be able to complete the 100 Meter Race under 3 minutes and the 300 Meter Race under 5 minutes. Athletes at the State Winter Games who cannot complete the 100 Meter or 300 Meter events under the maximum times listed here should be entered in the 25 Meter Straightaway and/or the 50 Meter Half Lap.

Winter Games Order of Events:

50 Meter Half Lap\*  
800 Meter  
25 Meter Straightaway\*  
300 Meter  
1,000 Meter  
100 Meter Assisted\* & Independent  
500 Meter  
1,500 Meter

Warm ups will be held between selected events.

\*These speed skating events are being offered to provide meaningful competition for athletes with lower ability levels. These events will be run individually.

3. Figure Skating - Special Olympics Ohio will offer competition in figure skating singles (Levels I-VI), pairs (Levels I-II), ice dancing (Level I-III). There will be no unified pairs skating and unified dance offered this year. Figure skating athletes may be entered in two (2) events. We will still offer a figure skating skills competition level one through eleven. Skills competitors may only be in the one skills event.

On Wednesday, required elements will be skated. The skills competition will be held on Wednesday morning at the recreation rinks with awards on the main rink following the speed skating competition.

On Thursday, the athletes will skate freestyle programs for a final point score within their division. Coaches interested in entering athletes in the figure skating competition should have a copy of the official Special Olympics Sports Rules (revised June, 2016) for figure skating.

\*All competition music for figure skaters must be submitted on CD format.\*

D. Equipment

1. Alpine Skiing - You may register to rent alpine equipment by stating the total number of rentals on the "Organization Registration Form".
2. Nordic Skiing - You must have or rent your own equipment from establishments in your local area.
3. Skating - Athletes and coaches must supply their own skates and safety equipment.

- E. Entry Fees - There will be a \$45.00 registration fee for every registered athlete, coach and partner.

- F. Housing – We have secured a large block of rooms at the nearby hotel (5 miles). Clarion Inn at Hudson located on Route 8 at the Ohio Turnpike, exit 12. Organizations must make their own reservations by filling out the enclosed reservation form and send it to the Clarion Inn.

- G. Meals – This year, Special Olympics Ohio will provide four meals: lunch on Wednesday at each site; Wednesday dinner at the Clarion Inn; Thursday breakfast at the Clarion Inn and Thursday lunch at each site. All registered athletes, partners and coaches will receive the meal package. \*This year, we are adding a breakfast option for Wednesday morning at the Clarion Inn for delegations that stay at the Clarion Inn on Tuesday night. There is no additional cost but you will have to indicate the number of Wednesday morning breakfasts you'll need on the "Winter Games Organization Registration Form". This breakfast will be served 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

### III. Entry Information

A. Eligibility – All athletes registered with Special Olympics Ohio organizations accredited for 2017 with current Athlete Application for Participation and Release Forms will be eligible to enter. In addition, only athletes engaged in Winter Sports training programs may participate. However, coaches who intend to enter beginning athletes beginning athletes in the Ohio Winter Games should start winter sports training for these athletes as soon as the weather permits.

#### B. Equipment Rental and/or Lift Ticket Costs

1. Alpine Skiing – The lift ticket cost for each athlete in alpine, whether or not they rent equipment, will be \$24.00. Coaches who also wish to ski at Brandywine must submit the same amount per person. Athletes and coaches who wish to rent alpine equipment must submit \$40.00 to cover this cost.

Payment of lift tickets and rental costs must accompany the registration materials.

2. Nordic Skiing – Athletes must provide their own equipment.
3. Ice Skating – Athletes and coaches must provide their own skates and necessary safety equipment.

#### C. Registration Forms

1. Mandatory Pre-registration – To save time at check-in the day of the event, you must send in copies of your athletes Participation /Release Forms with your entries. Remember, these must be properly prepared, dated and be signed. You will still need to check-in the day of the event at each sport venue to turn in scratches and pick up last minute event information.

If you are participating in any of the unified events, a Partner Release Form will also need to be completed for each partner and submitted.

2. Organization Registration Form – Please complete all information on the “Organization Registration Form”. Be sure you indicate the total number of athletes and coaches so that you get the correct number of tickets for each provided meal.
3. Individual Entry Form – The Individual Entry Form needs to be filled out for each athlete and partner. Indicate (P) after the Partner’s name. Use one form for each athlete. Remember, an athlete may be in only one sport. For Alpine skiers, please note whether the athlete is a beginner, intermediate, or advanced skier. See the Winter Sports Rules to check course and number of turns associated with each level.
4. All coaches listed must have a current Volunteer Level “A” form on file and be in compliance with the Special Olympics volunteer policy. If not, please submit those volunteer forms with your entries.

#### IV. Other Information

All organizations who enter athletes will receive a second mailing with additional information, i.e. directions, final schedule, dinner and breakfast tickets, etc. Each organization will be responsible for their own transportation between sports areas and lodges.

##### A. Family Registration Form

We want to encourage the families of the athletes to attend the State Winter Games. A “Family Registration Form” is attached. Please distribute copies to the families of the athletes you will be sending to the State Winter Games. Registered families will be sent the meet schedule, maps and directions, motel information, and family ribbons. In addition, there will be a family registration and information booth at the Brandywine Ski Resort and the lodge at the Ledges area.

##### B. Souvenirs

There will be a supply of Special Olympics souvenirs for sale during the games and Wednesday evening at the dance.

##### C. Opening Ceremonies

Opening Ceremonies will be held on Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m. at the Clarion Inn before dinner. Local organizations should report to the banquet area at 5:15 p.m. to be seated prior to the start of Opening Ceremonies. Each organization will be asked to select one athlete for each sport in which they have entered to march into banquet hall once the rest of each delegation has been seated. The Opening Ceremonies will then start with this “Parade of Athletes” into the dining area and then some brief welcoming remarks will follow. We ask that each local organization have a maximum of five athletes in this Parade. Then everyone will be served dinner with some competition awards and a victory dance to follow.