



Special Olympics

Georgia

Cobb

Thank you for your interest in our program. Special Olympics is a year round program of training and competition for children (ages 8 & up) and adults with special needs. Participants receive opportunities to increase physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and develop friendships with other Special Olympics athletes and the community. Special Olympics offers a variety of athletic opportunities including bowling, gymnastics, ice skating, basketball, alpine skiing golf and tennis to name a few. Athletes practice/train for at least 8 weeks before state level competitions. Please note the time of year during which your sport is held, and expect to be contacted by your coach. If you do not hear from your coach 8 –10 weeks prior to each listed State Games Competition, please contact our office. Additionally, Cobb County is looking for athletes interested in Unified Sports. Unified Sports are programs that pair a special athlete with a corporate athlete or community athlete for training and competition.

Eligibility

In Special Olympics, you must be at least 8 years of age and be diagnosed by an agency or professional with one of the following conditions: intellectual disabilities, cognitive delays as measured by formal assessment, or significant learning or vocation challenges due to cognitive delays that require or have required specially designed instructions.



How Do You Get To Participate?

Call Kim Battiste at (770)-528-2583 and request a registration packet. Each athlete must complete the following: a physical exam by a licensed examiner, a Special Olympics medical form "application for participation form", Behavior Code of Conduct Policy, Atlanto-axial release form, and the sports selection/yearly registration form. Complete all forms and make sure the appropriate person(s) sign the forms. When this packet is completed and returned to our office, you will receive a call from the coach of your selected sport. He/she will give you information regarding training, practice dates, and more. Please retain a copy of the medical form for your records.

Cobb County Training Programs

Cobb County offers a number of programs in which athletes receive coaching and training in certain sports specifically for competition in Special Olympic meets. Interested in coaching, volunteering or serving on the Special Olympic Management Team? *We need your support!* Contact us at (770)-528-2583 >1885 Roswell St. Smyrna, GA 30080.

Special Olympics GA-Cobb needs caring individuals who are able to donate their time during sports practices as well as during various Local, Area and State Competitions. There are many volunteer opportunities available throughout the year. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Kim Battiste at the number listed above for more information.



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

SPORTS AND TRAINING

SPORTS-Special Olympics Georgia-Cobb offers athletes the opportunity to excel in 23 sports:

Alpine Skiing	Bowling	Gymnastics-Artistic	Sailing
Aquatics	Cycling	Gymnastics-Rhythmic	Soccer
Athletics	Equestrian	Ice Skating-Figure	Softball
Badminton	Floor Hockey	Distance Running/Walking	Table Tennis
Basketball	Golf	Power Lifting	Tennis
Bocce	Kayaking	Roller Skating	Volleyball

TRAINING-Athletes are required to engage in an eight week minimum training program prior to any Special Olympics state competition to develop fitness and skills and learn rules and strategies from their coaches. Special Olympics also trains and certifies coaches, officials and games management team members in accordance with guidelines and standards set by Special Olympics International to ensure that all athletes receive the highest quality training and competition.

UNIFIED SPORTS-Introduced in 1987, Unified Sports furthers Special Olympics Georgia-Cobb's commitment to fostering integration into school and community sports programs. They bring together on the same team athletes with and without developmental disabilities. These teams train and compete against other Unified Sports teams in 17 Sports.

COMPETITIONS- Thousands of children and adults with developmental disabilities see a dream come true as they train, compete and succeed in more than 500 sports competitions at the local, area, state, regional, national and world levels. Special Olympics Georgia-Cobb athletes may become eligible to participate in five state-level competitions throughout the year.

Every two years, the World Special Olympics Games are held alternating winter and Summer Games. These are patterned after the traditional Olympic Games and follow many of the same customs, rules and regulations.

<u>COMPETITION</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SPORTS</u>
Indoor Winter Games	January	Cobb County	Basketball, Bowling, Floor Hockey, Artistic Gymnastics, Power Lifting, Roller Skating
Alpine Skiing	February	Boone, NC	Southeast Alpine Skiing
Southeast Ice Skating	February	Cobb County	Ice Skating
Summer Games	May/June	Emory	Aquatics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Badminton, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Athletics, Tennis, Soccer
Masters Bowling	August	Outside Metro Atlanta	Bowling for Ages 22+
Kayaking	September	Macon, GA	Ages 18+
Fall Games	October	Outside Metro Atlanta	Bocce, Cycling, Golf, Long Distance Walking/Running Softball
Equestrian	October	Gainesville, GA	English & Western Riding: Dressage, Equitation, Trail & Showmanship

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION

SECTION A - ATHLETE HEALTH INFORMATION/PARENT GUARDIAN AUTHORIZATION AND MEDICAL RELEASE

All athlete information, emergency information, health and accident insurance information, health information, medications and allergies sections must be completed by a parent, guardian, or adult athlete. THE PERSON PROVIDING THE INFORMATION MUST SIGN AND DATE THE FORM IN THE SPACE PROVIDED. (IF SIGNED BY AN ATHLETE THERE MUST BE A WITNESS SIGNATURE).

SECTION B - MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

The bottom section of the form labeled "Medical Certification" must be completed SIGNED and DATED by a licensed Physician, Physician Assistant or Chiropractor. A HEALTH SCREENING BY A LICENSED EXAMINER IS REQUIRED FOR INITIAL PARTICIPATION IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS.

All signatures, dates, addresses, phone numbers, birth date, health information MUST BE PROVIDED in order for the State office to accept and process the Application. The State office should get the ORIGINAL WHITE COPY and the Local Coordinator should keep the YELLOW COPY.

A vs. AB APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION

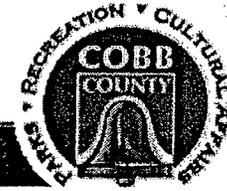
The following guidelines will be used to determine "A" vs. "AB" applications:

1. An Application will be considered an "A" Application if questions 1-5 of Section A are answered NO. When this application is up for renewal (every 3 years) only Section A - Athlete Health Information will need to be completed. No examiner's signature will be required under Section B - Medical Certification if application is completed before expiration date.
2. An application will be considered an "AB" Application if any questions 1-5 of Section A are answered YES. An examiner's signature is required to have medical clearance of existing conditions. When this Application is up for renewal an examiner's signature is required.
3. An athlete can have an "A" Application one time and the next time the Application could be an "AB" Application or vice versa. REMEMBER: If an application changes from A to AB or vice versa it will require a health screening by a licensed examiner and the examiner's signature under Section B - Medical Certification.

A parent/guardian or an adult athlete must sign Section A of the Application for Participation. If Section A of the Application is signed by an adult athlete then a family member, friend or coach must also sign Section A of the Application.

The mission of the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Program is to improve, through better health and fitness, each athlete's ability to train and compete in Special Olympics. SOGA offers six Healthy Athletes Initiatives during the year in the areas of oral health, vision, hearing, health promotion (nutrition), podiatry and physical therapy. The Healthy Athletes program is not mandatory; any athlete may elect not to go through the screening. Please call 770-414-9390 with questions about the program.

Recreation Cobb eNews



Monthly Newsletter of Cobb County Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs

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Feb. 9, 2016

Attention Cobb PARKS customers:

IMPORTANT COBB PARKS REGISTRATION INFORMATION

You MUST create or update your ActiveNet account BEFORE you will be able to register for any activities!

Cobb County P.A.R.K.S. has converted to the new ActiveNet registration system (from the previous CLASS software system). To insure your account is ready for use, you must update and verify your information no later than 24 hours prior to any upcoming registrations. If you did not have a Class account, or you have not used your Class account within the last 24 months, you must create a new account in ActiveNet.

ActiveNet uses your e-mail address as your login name. Your Class PIN will not work in ActiveNet. If you had an e-mail address on your Class account, it was imported into ActiveNet. If you did not have an e-mail address on your Class account, you will have to create a new ActiveNet account.

To sign in and verify your account information, or to create a new ActiveNet account, go to the Cobb County P.A.R.K.S. home page (www.cobbcounty.org/parks) and click the "Register Online GO!" button.

Things to know before creating or updating your ActiveNet account:

- You must be at least 13 years old to create an account. Parents (adults) may add children under 13 to their family and create accounts for them after the adult's account has been created or updated.
- You must have an adult account before you can create an account for a child.
- If you will be creating or updating accounts for others in your family, create or update your account **FIRST**.
- All items indicated by a red asterisk (*) are required and must be completed.
- ActiveNet requires you to enter your gender and birth date. These are used to determine qualifying activities, registration fees and to allow you to pay for activities for yourself and your family. For example: ActiveNet requires someone to be at least 13 years old to pay for any registrations. If you do not enter your birth date you will

not be able to pay for another family member's registration because ActiveNet determines your age to be 0.

- When entering or updating your street address, do NOT include directional suffixes like SW or NW, and do NOT use any punctuation.

These addresses are correct:

123 Cobb Parkway
123 Cobb Pkwy

These addresses are incorrect:

123 Cobb Parkway NW
123 Cobb Pkwy.
123 Cobb Pkwy. NW

Enter suite or apartment numbers on the second address line. Residency is determined by your street address, so it's important to make sure it's accurate and formatted correctly. An incorrect street address will result in your account being coded as a non-resident and you will be charged additional non-resident fees.

(If you are updating your account, please verify that your street address is correct.)

- If you had an e-mail address in your Class account

Click the "Sign-In" button.

When logging into ActiveNet for the first time, enter your e-mail address as your login name. While e-mail addresses were imported from Class, passwords were not. To obtain a new password, click the "Forgot your password" link. You will be prompted to enter your e-mail address. This must be the same address as your login name. You will very shortly receive an e-mail from Cobb County with your new password. Enter this new password then click the "Login" button. (*Passwords are case sensitive.*) You will now be prompted to change your password to one of your choosing. Once you have changed your password, you will be logged in and returned to the registration home page.

Click the "My Account" button. On the *Account Options* page, click "Change Information about Family/Friends." The "Family Members" page will list you and all of the people who are members of your family.

Once you have updated your information, click the "Save" button at the bottom of the page.

You can now edit information for the rest of your family. If you already have family members showing, click their name to edit their information. If you need to add someone to your family, click "Add New Family Member."

- If you did not have an e-mail address in your Class account

Click the "Create an Account" link just below the *Sign-In* button.

Follow the instructions on the screen to create your new ActiveNet account. All items indicated by a red asterisk (*) are required and must be completed.

When you have finished entering you information, click "Create Account" to create your account. If you wish to add family members, click "Create Account and Add Family Member."

Special Olympics Cobb Policy -

Behavior Code of Conduct

Athletes are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior at all times. The following guidelines have been developed to help make our training programs and competitions safe and enjoyable for all athletes, coaches, volunteers, opponents, chaperones, officials and/or spectators. Additional rules may be developed for the program as deemed necessary by coaches, team managers, and Special Olympics Cobb Management Team.

Athletes will:

1. Show respect to all athletes and coaches/team managers/chaperones/officials and follow directions given by coaches/chaperones/officials.
2. Refrain from using abusive/foul language or inappropriate gestures.
3. Refrain from causing bodily harm to self, other athletes, or coaches/officials.
4. Show respect for equipment, supplies, and facilities.
5. Not possess tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, and firearms/weapons.
6. Refrain from horseplay.
7. Refrain from harassment of fellow athletes and talking back to athletes, coaches, chaperones, and officials.

This behavior code of conduct is to be followed by all athletes, family members, volunteers and friends at all events and at all times.

Discipline

A positive approach will be used regarding discipline. Coaches/officials periodically review rules with athletes during the training program. Parents are asked to also review the rules with their child. If inappropriate behavior occurs, prompt resolution will be sought specific to each individual situation. If parent is not present when the incident occurs, they will be contacted by phone to determine the best discipline approach. Coaches/officials reserves the right to dismiss an athlete whose behavior is detrimental to the program or endangers the safety of him/herself or others.

Discipline actions will be reported to the Sports/Training Director who will report the actions to the Special Olympics Cobb Management Team to determine the final disciplinary action, which may result in the athlete's suspension from the sport.

Practice Policy

If a parent/guardian must leave an athlete at practice, an emergency phone number must be given to the sports manager or head coach. In addition they must return at least twenty (20) minutes prior to the end of practice to pick up the athlete. If the parent/guardian is late in picking up their athlete more than twice, the athlete will not be able to compete.

Use of Special Olympics Awards

An athlete who does not participate or who has been disqualified from the competition for unsportsmanlike conduct shall not receive an award of any kind. An athlete who does not finish or is disqualified for a sports rules infraction shall receive a participation ribbon.

All athletes will be awarded for his/her performance in accordance to the rules of divisioning by age, gender, and ability.

Criteria for Advancement to Higher Level Competition

Athletes of all ability levels have an equal opportunity to advance to the next higher level competition. Each competition reflects all aspects of the previous competition, including but not limited to the age, gender and ability level of athletes and the variety of sports events competed in at the previous competition.

The procedures used for selecting athletes to fill assigned quota for an event must follow procedures set forth as stated:

- a. An athlete is eligible to advance to the next competition provided she or he has:
 1. Participated in an organized training program directed by a qualified coach consistent with Special Olympics rules of training and competition and occurring at a level of frequency that provides necessary skill acquisition and preparation for competition in the specific sports and events in which the athlete competes. The recommended minimum training time is 8 to 12 weeks of one-hour practice or games (leagues) within two months prior to the competition.
 2. Participated in the previous competition with the following 2 exceptions:
 - When the Games or Tournament is the first competition opportunity for an athlete (e.g., at the Local or Area level), previous competition experience is not required. Some flexibility is also left to Accredited Programs for determining, in exceptional circumstances, eligibility for participation prior to completing the recommended minimum training time (e.g., a basketball team may begin league play after 5 one-hour practices.).
 - A team for which there has been no competition opportunity at a Tournament or Games shall be eligible to advance to the next competition.
- b. Training and previous competition experience must be in the same sport as the athlete will be competing in at the next competition. If additional events within that sport are available at the next competition, athletes should receive proper training prior advancing.
- c. If number of eligible athletes or teams exceeds the quota, athletes or teams that advance shall be selected as follows:
 - Attendance at each practice. Athlete must participate to be counted as present. If athlete is sick, injured, or have a doctor's order to not practice, athlete will be counted as absent, whether he/she may be present at practice. Two absences will be allowed as long as athlete does train during the 8 to 12 week training prior to the competition.
 - Divisioning by age, gender, and/or ability determined by score/time for individual sports or by skills test scores for team sports.
 - Priority is given to 1st place finishers from all divisions of the sport/event. If the number of 1st place finishers exceeds the quota, select athletes or teams to advance by random draw. Repeat this process, adding each place of finish as necessary, until the quota is filled.
 - Athlete abides by the sports rules and is responsible for conducting himself/herself in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.
 - Athlete abides by the behavior code of conduct listed above.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Special Olympics Cobb Policy has been written for your information as well as for your child's well being and safety during practices and all events in all sports. Once a year all parent/guardian will be required to sign below after reviewing the policy. You will receive a duplicate copy for future references.

Let's be a team and help us make every season a fun and safe experience for all. Thank you for all your support.

Special Olympics Cobb
Management Team



I have read, understand, and agree to the Special Olympics Cobb Policy. _____
Date

Adult Athlete (Age 18+)
(Optional)

Parent/Guardian

Address: _____

Phone: _____

ATLANTOAXIAL INSTABILITY (AAI)

ATHLETE _____ AREA _____
AGENCY _____

SPECIAL RELEASE FOR ATHLETES WITH DOWN SYNDROME

This release and a copy of the x-ray report must be received by all athletes with Down Syndrome in order to participate in Special Olympics Georgia equestrian sports, gymnastics, diving, pentathlon, butterfly stroke, diving starts in swimming, high jump, alpine skiing, and soccer.

CERTIFICATION BY PHYSICIANS

The athlete named above has been x-rayed and the x-rays examined by me (simple examination does not detect Atlanto-Axial, so there must be an x-ray).
_____ has been diagnosed as Atlanto-axial negative
_____ has been diagnosed as Atlanto-axial positive. Complete section 2 with 2 physician's signatures and section 3 if checked and the athlete wishes to participate in the restricted activities.

Signature of Physician

Date

Section 2

I have examined the above named athlete, who has Down Syndrome and who has been diagnosed as having Atlanto-axial instability. I certify, based on my examination of the athletes and my review of their health information contained in this application, that despite the diagnosis of Atlanto-axial instability, this athlete is not medically precluded from participation in the restricted Special Olympics activities as listed above.

I further certify that I have explained to the athlete named in this application, (and to the parent or guardian whose signature appears below, if the athlete is a minor) the medical risks associated with Atlanto-axial instability and in particular, the risks associated with the athlete's participation in sports or events which, by their nature may result in hyper-extension, radical flexion or direct pressure on the neck or upper spine.

Restrictions (if any): _____

Physician's Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Restrictions (if any): _____

Physician's Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Section 3 - Must be completed by parents or adult athlete if Atlanto-axial positive

I am the parent or legal guardian of the athlete named above or the adult athlete named above. I certify that:

1. I have been informed by the physician named above that my son/daughter or myself has Atlanto-axial instability.
2. The risks associated* with that condition, including the risks from participating in "equestrian sports, gymnastic, diving, pentathlon, butterfly stroke, diving starts in swimming, high jump, alpine skiing, and soccer" have been fully explained to me by the physicians named above, and I fully understand the possible medical consequences of my son/daughter or myself participating in any of these sports or events.
3. Although I recognize and understand the risks and possible medical consequences, I hereby give my permission for my son/daughter or myself to participate in Special Olympics, including any or all of the sports or events listed above, based on the certification of the physician named above that my son/daughter or myself is not medically preclude from participating in Special Olympics.

Signature of parent

Date

Signature of Adult Athlete

Date

PROTECTIVE BEHAVIORS

To achieve the mission of Special Olympics, those responsible for supervising Special Olympics athletes in both training and competition must take positive steps to protect athletes as well as other participants.

Screening of staff and volunteers is but one part of our responsibility to protect Special Olympics athletes. Screening is never 100% reliable; therefore, we need to institute additional measures designed to protect athletes while they are in our care.

Below are suggestions for strategies to protect athletes when participating in Special Olympics activities. These procedures are founded in common sense. You will also note that in most respects they reflect the same precautions that would need to be taken to protect any group of vulnerable individuals irrespective of whether they have developmental disabilities.

Preventing Physical Abuse

Corporal punishment including spanking, hitting, slapping, or other forms of physical disciplining will not be used by Special Olympics staff or volunteers.

Coaches and volunteers will not withhold water or food from athletes as a form of punishment. Water should be available for athletes during strenuous practice sessions and during competitions to avoid dehydration.

Only medications that have been prescribed by an athlete's physician will be dispensed to that athlete as indicated on his or her consent form signed by either a parent or legal custodian.

Preventing Emotional Abuse

At not time will coaches or other volunteers use profanity or otherwise curse at athletes for their performance or behavior during competition or practices.

