



2023 SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONTARIO SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

HOSTED BY



Coaches Handbook

Kingston, Ontario

June 6-8, 2023

Revised: April 19, 2023



WELCOME INFO

Dear Coach,

Congratulations on your team's advancement to the Special Olympics Ontario 2023 Provincial School Championships (School Championships). The School Championships will take place in Kingston, ON from June 6-8, 2023 and are proudly hosted by the Kingston Police. We are thrilled to be able to host 1,000 athletes and coaches from all over Ontario for the 2023 School Championships and look forward to welcoming you to beautiful Kingston!

Returning to in-person competitions, we have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for the Special Olympics movement and our School Championships program in Ontario. Every high school team who attended a qualifier and advanced to the 2023 School Championships can know that they were part of an incredible group of athletes and educators who were all committed to the same goal.

You will have noticed that the introduction of Unified Sports in schools has become a staple of our programming. We are proud to include a Unified division at all of our 75+ Provincial Qualifiers as well as at the 2023 School Championships. Unified Sports is the unique interconnection of athletes with and without intellectual disabilities in sport. Each of our five sports will offer a Traditional and Unified Division in Kingston.

This year we are expecting 1,000 athletes and coaches from all over Ontario. The 2023 School Championships in Kingston will (approximately) qualify:

- Soccer – 16 teams
- Basketball – 32 teams
- Track and Field – 150 athletes
- Bocce – 32 teams
- Floor Hockey – 15 teams

Please Note that the registration fee for this year's games will be \$50.00 per athletes (coaches do not pay). This registration fee includes:

- **Transportation** to and from Kingston. Pick-up will be in your hometown and Special Olympics Ontario will book all transportation. Two-weeks prior to the 2023 School Championships you will receive a travel itinerary. Depending on your exact location, some schools may take the train, be booked on a flight, or have to meet a bus at a central location.
- **Internal transportation** in Kingston to and from all sporting venues, ceremonies, and residences.



- Two nights' **accommodation** in Kingston (June 6 and June 7) at the Athlete's Village.
- **Meals** for every day of the Games:
 - June 6th – Lunch and Dinner
 - June 7th – Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
 - June 8th – Breakfast
- Great competition, awesome swag, and lasting memories!

Please note: based on the location and timing of Games, some teams may be required to travel to Kingston on June 5th. Should this be the case our team will reach out to you individually and accommodation and meals will be covered for June 5th in your registration.

This Welcome Package highlights some important information, useful links, and noteworthy reminders for the registration process.

Should you have any questions throughout this process please do not hesitate to let us know at coaches@schoolchamps.ca!

Welcome to the 2023 School Championships and congratulations again to you and your team!

See you soon!

The School Championships Team

COACHES CORNER

All forms, information and updates will be posted on the "Coaches Corner" website.

Go to: <https://schoolchamps.ca/coach/>

- This will be your "one-stop-shop" for all games information. All news, information and updates on the 2023 Schools Championships will be posted on the Coaches Corner. Please spend some time exploring this website and familiarize yourself with the information. New information will be continuously added and updated as we get closer to the games so please check back in periodically.
- **New this year** – all transportation itineraries will be linked through the coaches corner website

PARTICIPANT FORMS

We understand there can be many hurdles to overcome in committing to participation in the School Championships. All Team Registration will be completed online and can be found on the Coaches Corner website. We have added a feature ("Save and Continue Later") in order to collect the information you will need to complete the form. Please use the list below to guide you through the registration process:

- 1) **Team Registration Form:** <https://schoolchamps.ca/coach/>
Each team has a maximum number of participants and coaches allowed to attend. **For team sports, coaches may substitute a maximum of 2 players from their original roster.**

Should you be interested in having an additional coach attend, please complete the "Additional Educator Request Form" on the Coaches Corner website. This may be possible based on rooming availability and will come at an extra cost of \$350 to the school or educator.

Sport	Number of SO Athletes	Number of Unified Partners	# of Coaches
Traditional Basketball	Max 5		Max 2
Unified Basketball	Max 4	Max 2	Max 2
Traditional Bocce	Max 5		Max 2
Unified Bocce	Max 3	Max 2	Max 2
Traditional Floor Hockey	Max 11		Max 3
Unified Floor Hockey	Max 8	Max 4	Max 3
Traditional Soccer	Max 9		Max 3
Unified Soccer	Max 6	Max 4	Max 3
Track & Field	*no substitutions*		1 coach for every 4 athletes

Information required to complete this form:

- school information
- coach information
- athlete information (athlete name, gender, DOB, dietary restrictions, roommate request, athlete headshot)
- ceremonies form: This requires selecting an athlete from your school to carry in the school sign to Opening Ceremonies (sign provided by SOO)
- school logo/mascot/social media
- team photo



Please complete the online Team Registration form that can be found on the Coaches Corner website. Your team is not officially registered for the Games until your team information forms have been received, processed and approved. The deadline to submit registration is by sport:

Sport	Registration Deadline
Soccer	April 17 th
Basketball	April 17 th
Bocce	April 24 th
Floor Hockey	April 24 th
Athletics	TBD

- 2) **Fees:** The participation fee is \$50/athlete. (no cost for coaches within allocated quota)

Registration fees are due same date as your sport registration deadline (see deadlines above). Payment options include cheque or credit card (by phone). Please make cheques payable to SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONTARIO. Payments will not be accepted on site.

Mailing address:

Attn: School Championships
Special Olympics Ontario
65 Overlea Blvd., Suite 200
Toronto, ON
M4H 1P1

- 3) **Coach Registration Form:** <https://schoolchamps.ca/coach/>
Every coach needs to be registered in order to attend the 2023 School Championships. The coach registration form is available on the Coaches Corner website. Please complete these forms ASAP. Please note that coaches who have not completed their forms prior to Games will not be able to attend.
- 4) **Skills Assessment Tests:** <https://schoolchamps.ca/coach/>

All team sports must submit skills assessment test results. Full information can be found on the Coaches Corner website. These results assist our team to ensure a safe and fair competition and divisioning process for all. Forms are due **May 9th, 2023**

- 5) **Student-Athlete Registration Forms:** <https://schoolchamps.ca/coach/>
In order to participate in the School Championships, students-athletes must be registered (this is separate from your team information form). These forms are required for all participants, regardless if they have competed in the past. Each attending athlete must submit a completed student-athlete form (link on the Coaches Corner) completed by a parent or guardian. Please ensure parents/guardians complete these forms ASAP. Please note that athletes who have not completed their forms prior to Games will not be able to attend. Our team will stay connected with you to confirm who on your team has submitted forms.

ITINERARY

Subject to Change

Day 1 – Tuesday June 6, 2023

11:30am: Athletes arrive at sporting venues for divisioning games

11:30am – 12:30pm: Lunch at sporting venues

12:30pm – 2:00pm: Divisioning games for team sports

12:30pm – 2:30pm: Divisioning races for track & field

2:00pm – 2:30pm: Athletes depart for accommodation

2:00pm – 4:30pm: Accommodation check-in open

4:00pm – 6:00pm: Athlete & Coach dinner

6:15pm: Depart for Opening Ceremonies

6:30pm – 7:15pm: Marshalling for Opening Ceremony

7:30pm – 9:00pm: Opening Ceremony

9:00pm: Athletes depart for accommodation

10:00pm: Coaches meeting

Day 2 – Wednesday June 7, 2023

6:00am – 7:30am: Athlete & Coach breakfast

7:45am: Athletes depart to sporting venues

8:30am – 12:00pm: Round Robin Games for team sports

8:30am – 11:00am: morning competition & medals for track & field

11:00am – 12:00pm: Lunch

12:15pm – 2:45pm: Playoffs for team sports

12:15pm – 3:00pm: afternoon competition & medals for track & field

3:00pm: Medal ceremonies (on site at sport venues)

4:00pm: athletes depart for accommodation

4:30pm – 6:30pm: Dinner

6:45pm: Departure for Closing Ceremony & Dance



7:30pm – 10:00pm: Closing Ceremony & Dance

8:00pm – 10:00pm: Return to accommodations

Day 3 – Thursday June 8, 2023

6:00am – 8:00am: Athlete & Coach breakfast

9:00am: Departure for hometowns

TRAVEL INFORMATION

All teams will travel by train, bus, or plane to the 2023 School Championships (and sometimes a combination). Your School's and your Team's specific travel itinerary (they may differ) will be communicated to you closer to the date of the Games.

Please note that if you are asked to meet the bus at a central location your transportation to that location will NOT be provided by SOO. The same with transportation to a train station or airport.

Schools and Teams will be notified individually of travel plans. **Depending on your team's locations, departure and arrival times will most likely take place outside of school hours. Travel Itineraries will be sent to you at least two weeks prior to Games.**

VENUE DETAILS

Basketball Competition – Queen’s University

- Athletics & Recreation Centre North (ARC North)
 - ARC North – Upper Gym
 - 284 Earl St, Kingston, ON
- Athletics & Recreation Centre South (ARC South)
 - ARC South – Gym 3 & 4
 - 69 Union St West, Kingston, ON
- All gyms are indoor hardwood floor Gymnasiums
- https://rec.gogaelsqo.com/sports/2013/8/12/Fac-Serv_0812134124.aspx



Bocce Competition – Queen’s University

- Nixon Field
- Artificial turf field
- Main campus:
 - https://rec.gogaelsqo.com/sports/2013/7/29/Fac-Serv_0729130949.aspx?id=178



Soccer Competition – Queen’s University

- Tindall Field
- Artificial turf field
- Main campus:
 - https://rec.gogaelsqo.com/sports/2013/7/29/Fac-Serv_0729130949.aspx?id=178



Floor Hockey Competition – Cataraqui Arena

- Two adjoining concrete hockey pads within the same arena
- Cataraqui & Kinsmen Ice Pads
 - 1030 Sunnyside Rd., Kingston, ON
 - <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/recreation/facilities/arenas/cataraqui-arena>



Track & Field Competition – CaraCo Home Field

- CaraCo Field at the Invista Centre
 - 1350 Gardiners Rd., Kingston, ON
- 400m eight-lane rubberized track



- <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/recreation/facilities/caraco-home-field>

DETAILS OF ACCOMMODATION

Queen's University – various residence buildings

Exact room locations and buildings are still TBD. Information on rooms and buildings will be posted on the website and an updated version of this package will be available once information has been finalized.

***Important*:** We will make every effort to room all schools together regardless of sport, however there may be some circumstances where this is not possible based on the room allocations given to us. In this case, some schools may be separated by team. **Please plan for supervision accordingly.**

Athlete & Coach Rooms: (final building assignments will be sent to each coach at least 2 weeks prior to Games)

- Single and double rooms.
- Athletes and coaches cannot share a room unless approved by SOO and with written approval from your school administration.
- Occupants of each room will be single gender only, unless approved by SOO and with written approval from your school administration.
- Floors will be multi-gender or single-gendered depending on the residence type.
- Rooms will either have in-suite washrooms shared with a roommate or a bank of washrooms per floor shared with other floor occupants (all Games participants). For multi-gendered floors, washrooms will be marked by gender.
- Each room will come with linens, pillows and towels. All participants must bring their own soap, shampoo, toothbrush, etc.
- Each residence will have a front desk employee, a security member, and a nurse on call 24/7.
- Each residence will have Special Olympics staff dispersed throughout the residence
- An SOO staff member and residence staff with a master key to all rooms will be available 24 hrs/day.

OPENING CEREMONY

Queen's University

Athletics & Recreation Centre – Main Gym

284 Earl St

Kingston, ON

Tuesday June 2nd, 2023

7:30-9:00pm

Open to the public, free of charge.



- **Athletes and Coaches are asked to wear clothing that represents your school's colours and logo.**
- Each school will be asked to name one student to carry your school sign in to the opening ceremony. Information can be completed on the Ceremonies section of the Team Registration Form found on the Coaches Corner website.
- Special Olympics Ontario will provide all signs.
- Loud noises and flashing lights will be part of the Opening Ceremonies. We are working to produce live streaming. More information will be provided closer to the date.
- ***All Athletes & Coaches are required to attend Opening and Closing Ceremonies***

NOTE FOR FANS & FAMILIES: As there are a limited number of seats available, fans wishing to attend the ceremonies must pre-register to secure a free ticket. Registration will be posted closer to the date on the Games website at <https://schoolchamps.ca/>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Healthy Athletes:

Once again this year, we are happy to announce that we will be hosting a Healthy Athletes expo open to all competing athletes. These free health and nutrition booths and sessions will be set up at each competition venue, and built into your competition schedule. Each athlete will need a release form signed by a parent/guardian to participate (found in the student-athlete form).



Want to leave early? Not stay overnight?

We recognize that two overnights away from home can be very hard for some teams. Although we strongly encourage all athletes to stay in the Athletes Village for two nights to gain the full Games experience, this is ultimately not mandatory. Should you wish to stray from the transportation or accommodation plan, please let us know immediately.

Note: regardless of your school plan, the registration of \$50/athlete remains the same, and all schools are required to cover the cost of any transportation that strays from the plan.

One-Way Texting Platform:

During the Games we will be using a one-way texting platform to communicate with all coaches. This will allow us to send out real-time updates on and unforeseen changes or updates. It is required that each coach provide consent for phone numbers to be used for this platform. Please see the Coach Registration Form to affirm consent. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Media Requests:

Leading up to the Games, our marketing department will be alerting local media of your team's advancement. As a result, there may be media requests that come to us to cover your team either at the event, at a practice, or to partake in an interview leading up to the event. Should this occur you will be contacted directly by the School Championships team. If you wish to alert any contacts you may have in the local media please feel free to pass along the coverage so we can share it!

Additional Educators:

We recognize that some teams and athletes may need extra support at the Games. Requests for an extra educator/coach can be submitted online through the Coaches Corner website (<https://schoolchamps.ca/coach/>) Approvals will be made on a first come, first served basis as we have limited accommodation space. **The costs of an additional educator is \$200** which must be picked up by the participating school or individual.

Event Swag:

Custom event clothing will be available for purchase on site throughout the event. Details and pricing will be released closer to the event.

Closest Hospital:

Kingston General Hospital – Queen's University
76 Stuart St., Kingston, ON, K7L 2V7

FAN INFORMATION

Information for fans coming to watch and follow along from home can be found on our website at: <https://schoolchamps.ca/>

Information on our host hotels is also available soon on the main website as well.

Note: fans may not visit with athletes in between competition time or at night.

CONTACT & IMPORTANT LINKS

Contact the School Championships Team - coaches@schoolchamps.ca

Games Website - <https://schoolchamps.ca/>

Coaches Corner Website - <https://schoolchamps.ca/coach/>

Follow us on social media and join the conversation!

@SOOSchoolChamps #SOOSchoolChamps





