



GAMES INFORMATION PACKET

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2022 Special Olympics Montana Bowling Championships

SOMT is excited to announce the format for the 2022 Bowling Championships, which fall within the current Special Olympics International Return to Activity protocols and may be executed in any risk category.

SOMT will bring localized tournaments to approximately **13 statewide locations!** Tournaments will be run in multiple locations the same day, with competitors from each alley being placed in divisions together.

The competition offering will allow athletes to compete in either singles or unified doubles with athletes across the state in real-time. Awards will be presented at the end of each flight, with results from across the state coming into a central database to determine winners. This will allow an athlete bowling in one location the opportunity to compete with other athletes bowling at the same time, in another location.

For those not yet ready, or able, to return to “multi-team” competition, there will be a compete from practice option available for athletes and unified partners to participate in bowling.

SEASON TIMELINE and COMPETITION LOCATIONS:

- Games information packet and roster/registration form distributed: November 29, 2021
- Official bowling season start: December 6, 2021
- Rosters/divisioning scores/all paperwork due: January 7, 2022
 - Final scores for Compete-from-Practice: February 18, 2022
- Tournament dates and team assignments:
 - Sunday, January 30, 2022
 - Billings – all YVAR teams and Roundup
 - Conrad – Conrad Cougars, Shelby Life, Cut Bank, Box Elder
 - Friday, February 4, 2022
 - Bozeman – all BSAR teams
 - Glasgow – all NEAR teams
 - Lewistown – Central MT Eagles
 - Monday, February 7, 2022
 - Missoula – all Missoula and Bitterroot teams, Alberton, Frenchtown
 - Polson – all Flathead Reservation teams
 - Miles City – all SEAR teams
 - Wednesday, February 16, 2022
 - Bigfork – all GLAR teams will be assigned after January 7th registration and paperwork due date
 - Whitefish – all GLAR teams will be assigned after January 7th registration and paperwork due date
 - Great Falls – all Great Falls teams, Teton Tigers
 - Friday, February 18, 2022
 - Butte – all SWAR teams
 - Helena – all TCAR teams

Important Note: In some areas there are multiple bowling alleys that will be used. Team assignments in these areas are tentative and will be finalized after registration on January 7, 2022. *Teams are expected to attend the tournament at their assigned bowling location.* Contact the SOMT Sports Department with questions or concerns.

*****Competition locations and dates may be subject to change*****

Tentative “Day Of” Tournament Schedule: Detailed tournament schedules will be sent out with divisioning reports prior to each tournament and may vary from location to location.

- Team check-in: 8:00 AM
- Opening Ceremony: 8:45 AM
- First flight: 9:00 AM
- Second flight (if necessary): 11:00 AM
- Awards will be presented immediately upon the completion of each flight/division

PAPERWORK:

All **athletes and unified partners** who plan to compete will be required to be current with paperwork: athlete medical, consent, unified partner application, and athlete code of conduct.

- In addition, athletes/unified partners and/or their guardians or caregivers will be required to review and sign off on the [COVID-19 Code of Conduct and Participant Risk Assessment Form](#). This document needs completing only once. Please be sure to submit both pages, including the checkbox page (pages 1 and 2) of the document.
- Also required will be the [Communicable Diseases Waiver](#). This document will be required every three years.

All volunteers (**area directors, local program coordinators, coaches, and volunteers**) will need to have current paperwork: volunteer application, protective behaviors, and concussion for coaches.

- They will also be asked to review and sign off on the [COVID-19 Code of Conduct and Participant Risk Assessment Form](#) if they are volunteering with the team during the 2022 Bowling Championships. This document needs completing only once. Please be sure to submit both pages, including the checkbox page (pages 1 and 2) of the document.
- Also required will be the [Communicable Diseases Waiver](#). This document will be required every three years.

All paperwork is to be submitted to Richie Whitney at the state office.

- Email: rwhitney@somt.org
- Fax: 406-770-4451

Due Date for paperwork: Friday, January 7, 2022

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS: **These protocols reflect the Significant Risk Level of Return to Activity Guidelines from Special Olympics International**

Practice and Competition Guidelines:

When teams return to practice, they must adhere to the following guidelines:

- All athletes, unified partners, coaches, and volunteers must participate in COVID-19 screening before entering the practice area.

- Screening includes a temperature check and specific survey questions listed on the [COVID-19 Screening and Tracking Template for Special Olympics Activities](#) that must be answered.
- The [COVID-19 Screening and Tracking Template for Special Olympics Activities](#) must be completed at the start of each practice. Local Program Coordinators and/or the head coaches will be asked to compile and submit all completed COVID-19 Screening and Tracking Templates to the state office at the end of the season.
 - Please submit tracking forms to Richie Whitney. **Due at the conclusion of the season.**
 - Email: rwhitney@somt.org
 - Fax: 406-770-4451
- Practice sizes may not exceed more than 50 people. It is encouraged that there be 6ft physical distance between participants, even with 50 or less in attendance (when possible). Please remember that the following attendees need to be considered a part of the 50 or less count: athletes, unified partners, coaches, volunteers, and spectators.
- All participants must attend regularly scheduled practices.
 - Once practice groups are established, participants must remain in those practice groups.
- It is recommended that COVID-19 educational signage be hung in prominent locations at the practice venue. Sample educational and venue signage can be found on the [Return to Activity](#) website.
- If holding back-to-back practices, teams must leave enough time to disinfect the venue and equipment BEFORE the next team arrives.
- All sports equipment and shared surfaces must be disinfected between uses.
 - Example: Between practices and if multiple participants are using the same bowling ball.
- *If teams choose to allow spectators to attend practices, they must take part in screening, like any athlete, unified partner, coach, or volunteer. They must also be counted in the 50-person gathering limit for practices during the significant risk level.*
- Facemasks **MUST** be worn at all times during practice and competition by athletes, unified partners, coaches, and team volunteers, as well as spectators. This applies to those who are vaccinated or unvaccinated.
 - Face shields are not a permissible replacement for a facemask.
- Indirect contact MAY resume during the significant risk level. Direct physical contact MAY NOT resume (e.g., high fives, hugs, huddles, defensive contact, etc.). During practice, athletes, unified partners, coaches, and volunteers must maintain physical distancing of 6 ft, when possible.
- Coaches are encouraged to continue COVID-19 education with athletes and unified partners at the start of each practice while completing the screening.
- For coaches attending multiple practices, please be sure to wear your facemasks at all times, use hand sanitizer regularly, and social distance as much as possible. Extra precautions are advised to help reduce the risk of exposure when attending multiple practices.

Practice Facilities/Venues:

As teams begin securing venues for practice, Local Program Coordinators or Head Coaches are asked to submit contracts and/or facility use agreements, if requested from the venue, to Lisa Romig (lromig@somt.org) at the SOMT office for approval and signature. Please DO NOT sign any contracts on behalf of SOMT. All contracts and/or facility use agreements must be signed by SOMT COO or CEO.

Travel Guidelines:

- If teams plan to travel out of their local geographic area for practices, teams may only travel to areas with similar COVID-19 case numbers, so as to not increase the risk of COVID-19 spread

within or in between communities. Please check the [Washington Post COVID-19 site](#) for current case numbers in each county.

- Teams traveling by bus to any practice must also adhere to the following COVID-19 guidelines:
 - Temperature checks and completion of COVID-19 tracking forms prior to boarding the bus.
 - This includes athletes, unified partners, coaches, team volunteers, and the bus driver.
 - Hand sanitizing prior to boarding the bus.
 - Facemasks must be worn at all times.
 - No food or beverages are allowed to be consumed while on the bus, to reduce time without masks on while in transit.
 - Social distancing must be adhered to on the bus.
 - Example: One person per seat, every other row.
- NO overnight travel is allowed in the significant risk level.

If there are questions about travel, please contact Jamie Wood, VP Sports, jwood@somt.org or Mandy Patriarche, VP Outreach, apatriarche@somt.org

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

To assist teams in dealing with the challenges of COVID-19 screening, SOMT will provide the following personal protective equipment (PPE) to each team:

- Infrared thermometers (*it is recommended that teams have additional AA batteries on hand during practices for thermometer*)

Teams are asked to request thermometers through this [online form](#).

Teams will be responsible for providing the following PPE:

- Disposable facemasks for all attendees (if they do not have their own).
- Hand sanitizer – recommendation is for hand sanitizer to contain at least 60% alcohol.
 - **NOTE:** DO NOT use sanitizers that contain methanol alcohol (wood alcohol) as it is toxic.
- Sanitizing products for all sports equipment and shared surfaces in the venue
 - (*CDC/EPA guidelines recommend using 1/3 cup bleach to 1 gallon of water for sanitation purposes. Clorox and/or Lysol wipes are also an approved method for sanitizing.*)
 - It is also recommended that teams check with their local bowling alleys on sanitation being done in the facility.
- **Facemasks: Athletes, unified partners, coaches, and team volunteers, as well as spectators, are required to wear facemasks at all times.**

What to do if an athlete, volunteer, or spectator answers yes to a survey question, or arrives with a fever during the COVID-19 screening?

If an athlete, unified partner, coach, volunteer, or spectator answer “yes” to one of the survey questions, or arrives with a fever, please follow the steps below:

- 1) Isolate individual
- 2) Send individual home from practice
- 3) Have individual contact their healthcare provider

If the individual is found to have COVID-19 symptoms, they must wait 7 days after symptoms resolve to return to activity or must provide written proof of physician clearance to Special Olympics Montana before returning to activities. Physician clearance must be submitted to SOMT state office and Local Program Coordinator.

POSITIVE TESTS: Participants who test positive for COVID-19 must contact the Special Olympics Montana state office and head coach or Local Program Coordinator, as soon as possible. No participation within 10 days of a COVID-19 positive test and 7 days of any symptoms. Athletes and unified partners must provide written medical clearance from their health care provider or submit a whole new medical before returning to activities.

NOTE: When performing the temperature check, if the participant has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, they may be rescreened after 5 minutes to ensure the temperature is accurate. If the temperature is still 100.4 or higher, follow the steps above. During the 5-minute wait, please make sure participant is kept in a shaded and cool area. Do not allow them to stand in direct sunlight, if outside.

AWARDS:

All athletes and unified partners competing in the 2022 Bowling Championships will receive an award.

In-Person Bowling Events:

- Traditional and unified medals (gold, silver, bronze) and ribbons (4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and participation).

Compete-From-Practice:

- Traditional and unified medals (gold, silver, bronze) and ribbons (4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and participation).

LUNCHES:

Lunches will not be served at the 2022 Bowling Championships. Teams are encouraged to bring pre-packaged snacks and bottled water for their team.

REGISTRATION FEES:

SOMT will NOT be charging any registration fees for the 2022 Bowling Championships.

Special Olympics Montana

2022 Bowling Rules

Max Effort Rule and Honest Score Submission Rule

The Max Effort Rule will be in affect for the 2022 Bowling Championships. As a reminder, the Max Effort Rule states- "If a participant's final performance at a state-level competition exceeds their submitted divisioning score by x%, they will be subject to restrictions." These restrictions and more details about the Max Effort Rule can be found at this [LINK](#). The Max Effort Rule aims to have all participants and teams submit honest scores to ensure fair competition.

For the 2022 Bowling Championships, the % of improvement to violation is on a sliding scale for participants. For scores submitted 49 or less, participants may improve up to 60%. For scores submitted 50-99, participants may improve up to 50%. For scores submitted 100+, participants may improve up to 40%.

The LPC and Coach Honest Score Submission Rule- "If more than 25% of a team's participants violate the Max Effort Rule, the LPC and/or team will be subject to restrictions." See the link above for more information about those restrictions. The LPC and Coach Honest Score Submission Rule aims to ensure teams are practicing as expected (at least 10 hours) and are submitting honest divisioning scores.

For example, Joe Smith has an average game score of 84 submitted from practice. Joe's competition score may improve up to 50%, which would be 42 pins, therefore, Joe may improve to 126. If Joe improves to 127, that score would be above 50%, which means Joe would be flagged for a violation.

IN-PERSON BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

General Information and Rules

- Athletes and unified partners are allowed to select 1 event for participation.
 - Assisted bowlers will not be allowed to register for *unified doubles*. They must register for *singles assisted ramp* only.
- When submitting scores for registration, scores should be the total of the athlete or unified partners' best 3 scores from completed games. Divisions will be determined based on these scores, gender, and age.
- Foul lights will be on during competition.
- Any team arriving late will begin play with the score to count from the frame then being bowled. A zero will be given for all prior frames.
- Ramp bowling
 - If a delegation has ramp bowlers, it is expected the delegation provide their own ramp. Each alley may have ramps to use, but in the event the alley's ramps are few or damaged, delegations need to be prepared.
- "Powdering" of shoes is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification.
- Facemasks must be worn at all times during practice and competition by athletes, unified partners, coaches, and team volunteers, as well as spectators.

- ***For any questions on equipment modifications that may or may not be allowed, contact the Special Olympics Montana Sports Department.***

Individual (athlete only)

- Singles bowlers will bowl 3 games.
- Singles bowlers will bowl straight games.
- Bowlers can participate in one of the following events:
 - Singles
 - This is traditional, unassisted bowling. If an athlete receives assistance of any kind, besides stability assistance, they will be disqualified and receive a participation ribbon.
 - Singles Ramp Unassisted
 - Athlete aims ramp into position unassisted
 - Athlete may receive assistance lifting ball onto ramp.
 - Athlete pushes ball down ramp toward target.
 - Athlete resets ramp unassisted.
 - A bowler may be asked to bowl a complete game without taking a break between frames. Coaches need to ensure bowlers are prepared for this.
 - Athlete may reset the ramp unassisted after each roll.
 - Singles Ramp Assisted
 - An assistant may aim the ramp towards the pins, but must at all times have their back to the pins and aim based on directions (either verbally or by physical cues) from the athlete.
 - Use of technology for the purpose of giving directions is permitted if preapproved by the Special Olympics Montana Sports Department. Contact the Sports Department to receive approval.
 - A bowler may be asked to bowl a complete game without taking a break between frames. Coaches need to ensure bowlers are prepared for this.
 - Athlete may receive assistance lifting the ball onto the ramp.
 - Athlete must have or make a reasonable effort to have at least one hand on the ball as it is being delivered.
 - After the first roll, assistants may reset the ramp, so that the ramp is pointing down the center of the lane. From there, the assistant will await cues from the athlete on ramp direction and placement.

Unified Doubles (athlete + unified partner)

- Unified doubles bowlers will bowl 3 games each. Teammates will be assigned to the same lane for competition.
- Unified doubles bowlers will bowl straight games. No Baker Format in 2022.
- Unified doubles pairs will consist of 1 athlete and 1 unified partner. No exceptions.
- A unified double pair's score will consist of the 3 game individual score of the athlete and the 3 game individual score of the unified partner added together. The resulting score will be the total of 6 completed games.

- When submitting registration scores for a unified doubles pair, submit each individual teammate's total of 3 best scores. DO NOT submit the combined score of the doubles pair.

Special Olympics International Rules

The rules above are meant to be all encompassing of Special Olympics Montana competitions. Any rules not covered above can be found by accessing the Special Olympics International Bowling Rules at this [LINK](#). The Special Olympics Montana Bowling Rules take precedence over any other organization's bowling rules.

COMPETE-FROM-PRACTICE ONLY

Compete-from-practice is for teams/participants that do not wish to or are unable to return to in-person competition with their team. Those who choose the compete-from-practice event WILL NOT be allowed to participate in the *In-Person Bowling Championships* option or day-of competition.

General Information and Specific Rules

- Participants will follow the rules and dates listed in the above portions of the Games Information Packet.
 - This includes Covid-19 protocols, dates for submitting paperwork and divisioning scores (January 7th), competition rules, etc.
 - Final scores for this event due February 18th
 - Participants in the Compete-From-Practice events will be required to submit paperwork and registration information through their Local Program Coordinator.
- Participants in the Compete-From-Practice event will be placed in divisions for competition and awards against other available participants who register for the event.
 - Participants in the Compete-From-Practice event will be expected to complete games of bowling, similar to those participating in the *In-Person Bowling Championships*.
 - Participants in the Compete-From-Practice event will be mailed their awards at the completion of the season.