



Special Olympics
Unified Sports®

2023-24 Bocce Preseason Coaches Webinar Meeting

Special Olympics
IF PEKONGAS VILL. (NY) 01211
TEAM WORK
makes the
DREAM WORK

GEORGE
WASHINGTON
ATHLETIC
57

ATHLETIC
52

Agenda

- Welcome
- UCS Staff
- What is new for 2023-24!
- Reminders
- Dates and Deadlines
- Advancement to PIAA/SOPA State Championships
- PIAA/SOPA State Championships
- Questions



UCS STAFF

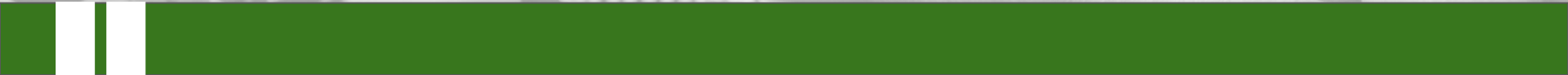


Eastern	Central	Western
Kim Lope Region 4 - Northeast	Jennifer Tresp Region 2 The Wilds & 3	Eric Jankoski Region 9 Allegheny County
Ashley Herr Region 6 - Southeastern	Jan Holt Greater Harrisburg Area	Stephanie Taylor Region 9 - Three Rivers
Brynne Wacker Region 6 - Southeastern	Megan Petrasic Region 7 Capital Area & 8	Hayden Miller Region 9 - Pittsburgh UCCS
Traci Huddleson Region 5 - GLVPR	Lauren Saulter UCS Director & Philly UCCS	Doug Chuzie Region 1 - Northwest



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NEW FOR 2023-24!



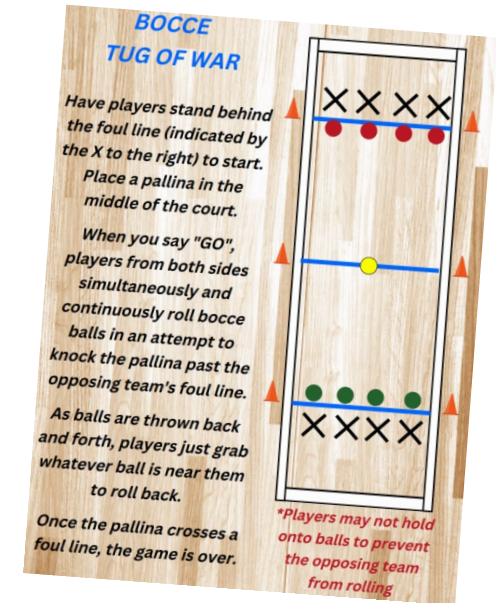
Student Athlete Requirements



- **Eligible students -**
 - 9th to 12th grade
 - including students up to the age of 21 who are still receiving services from the school district.
- **FOR THIS YEAR** - students who are turning 22 who have opted in for an additional year of high school are **not** eligible to be on the roster
 - *Any students returning to receive additional services from a school under section 1412(a)(1)(B) of IDEA (a student returning to receive services until their 22nd birthday) are not eligible to be on an Interscholastic Unified Sports team roster. These students are more than welcome to be team managers, part of an Intramural Unified Sports program, or members of the Unified club for as long as school policy allows.*
- **All participants** must complete both forms to be eligible for participation:
 - PIAA Physical Form
 - The school will file this form as they do for all PIAA Participant forms
 - SOPA Waiver - Regionally Specific link will be sent by your liaison
 - This form should be completed by families or guardians
 - Paper copies are available if needed – contact your SOPA Liaison

Practices

1. Practice a minimum of twice a week after school.
2. On weeks when you have a match, you are only required to have one practice.
3. All practices should include 10 minutes of Fitness Training
 - a. Including warm-ups & cool-downs
 - b. Check out our website for resources!
 - [Bocce Dynamic Warm-Up Guide](#)
 - [Bocce Cool Down Guide](#)



Practices/Training Plan Ideas



COMPONENT	INCLUDES
Warm Up	Speed walking or jog around gym or practice area
Dynamic Stretching	Exercises to get the heart pumping/Fitness Training
Skills Training	Pointing, Deadball, Banking etc
Game or Game like situation	Play a game or set up a challenge that you would see in a game
Cool Down	Speed walking or jog around gym or practice area
Static Stretching & Team Chat	Exercised to slow the heart down and discuss next practice and what you did that day

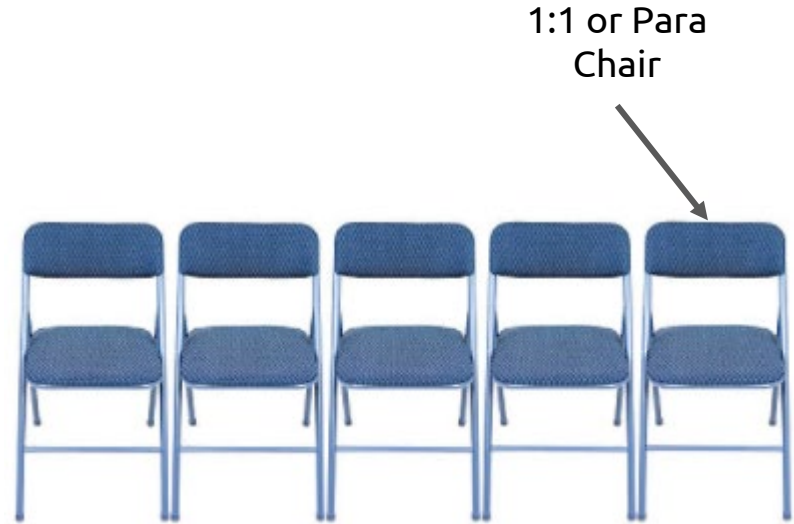
REMEMBER - Water breaks every 20 minutes!

Players needing 1:1 or Paraprofessionals

Coaches must identify student athletes who need support on the preseason rosters & reiterate during coaches meetings which athletes have 1:1 support.

These individuals:

- May transition from one end of the court to the other with their student
- **No coaching!**



Managing Pace of Play

Officials are responsible for helping to keep the pace of play flowing to allow for the most playing time possible.

Prompt 1 is from the Head Official – “Red in, Green roll”

Prompt 2 will be given by the Head Officials 10 seconds after first prompt

Exceptions: Allow wheelchair, visual/hearing impaired athletes to get into place before 10 second count would begin

Prompt 3 will be given 10 seconds after Prompt 2; Head Official will declare “I will start a 10 second countdown.”

- o If the ball is not played, it will be declared a dead ball.
- o 10 second hand count will be displayed by the head official

Time Outs

- Coaches Time Out
 - Each team - one 60 second timeout per game
 - Coach must request the time out to the official
 - Your team must be in possession of the ball or at the end of a frame while officials are measuring other balls in contention.
 - Clock will stop for the 60 seconds
 - Allowable anytime during the course of the game (not in Golden Frame)
 - Once the official announces the time out - the coach will go to the players



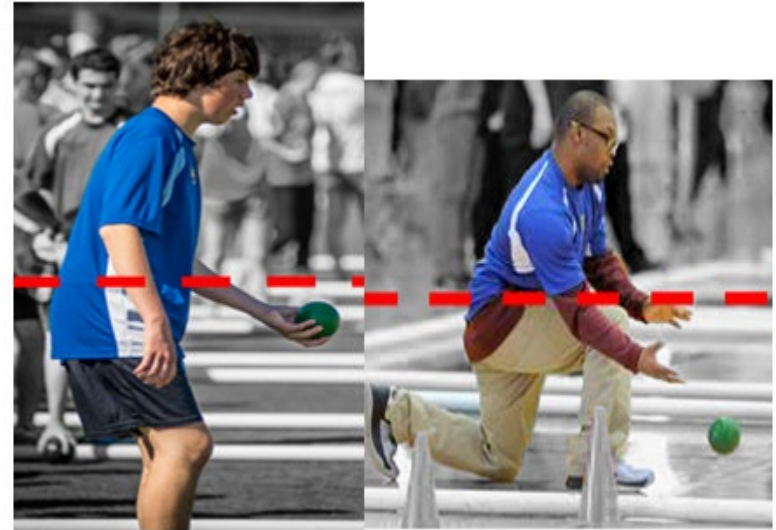
Ball Release above the waist

Releasing the ball above the waist will be considered a foul and declared a dead ball.

BOTH PERMISSIBLE HAND PLACEMENTS:

Figure 1 Underhand

Figure 2 hand over ball



Coaches Quiz

- **All coaches** - Open book quiz - we encourage you to use your Bocce Coaches' Resource Guide while taking this quiz.
- **Quiz must be taken by: December 4th.**
- Any coach who fails the quiz will have a 1:1 meeting with your Liaison to review the missed questions.

Bocce Coaches [Quiz](#)





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REMINDERS!



Shirt Ordering



Order By: **Tuesday, November 21st**

[Wills Uniform Website](#)

NEW SCHOOLS & Coaches - Can order

- 16 Athlete/Unified partner polo shirts
- 2 Coach Polos (Different color than athlete shirts)
- 4 Official Polos

● **RETURNING SCHOOLS -**

- Should only be ordering sizes needed above your current inventory

Can our school order our own Polo Shirts? Yes, **REQUIRES PRE-APPROVAL** from Special Olympics PA before you place your order. Please contact your SOPA Liaison for requirements.

Attire

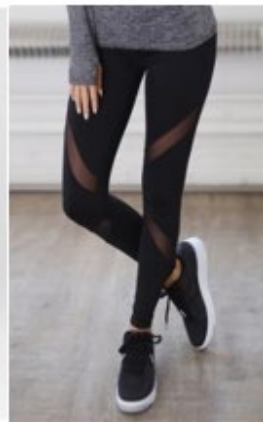
Allowed:



Attire

Not Allowed:

Denim pants (jeans), anything with rips or tears, cargo pants, any colored pants other than black, navy blue or khaki, prints, no leggings with cut-outs above the knee



Attire

Allowed:

Athletic sneakers/tennis shoes. Velcro is allowed as needed for participants. Can be any color.



Attire

Not allowed:

- Slip On
 - Ex. such as Vans, Toms,
- Boots
 - Ex. such as Uggs, Timberlands,
- Flip-flops, sandals



Bocce Balls

- Gel Filling is a completely inert, non-toxic high density mixture
- **Clean up with only soap and water.** - Air Dry
- Need air? Use a hand held air pump.
 - **Give it a small pump of air.**
 - **Be careful to not overfill the ball.**
 - **Size of the bocce ball should be 107mm.**



- Call your liaison immediately if the ball will not fill or loses shape.

Team Rosters

- Bocce team roster
 - minimum of 6
 - 3 Athletes & 3 partners
 - maximum of 8
 - 4 athletes & 4 partners - Ideal
 - 3 athletes & 5 partners
 - 5 athletes & 3 partners
- There are **NO SUBSTITUTES OR ALTERNATES** allowed, and players cannot be replaced during the season for any reason.



Team Rosters Continued



- **Team Rosters are due, Monday, December 4th**
 - No additional players may be added after this deadline
 - **Schools with 2 Teams** - When rosters are submitted - no team members may change teams
- Winter season interscholastic sports athletes **CANNOT** participate on the Unified Indoor Bocce team. Fall and spring varsity athletes **are** eligible to participate.
- **On your Roster - identify your ADULT Head Officials and list their names on your team roster. Line Officials may be students.**
 - Officials training video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URiSBVLgFxY>

Game Day Line Up



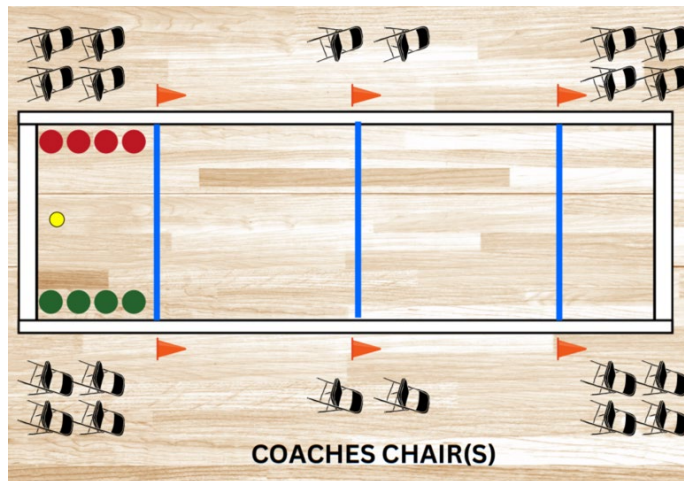
- Game day rosters **MUST** stay intact without alterations or substitutions.
- For an official match to be played:
 - a team must have a minimum of 4 players: 2 athletes and 2 Unified partners.
- If a team has less than 2 athletes and 2 Unified partners, it forfeits the game and an exhibition (non-scoring) game is played.

If you have less than 8 players see the “Player Rotation” page of the “Bocce Coaches Resource Guide” and check out the video links:

- 3-3 rotation: <https://youtu.be/2IGMEcHZvel>
- 3-4 rotation: https://youtu.be/7ZcLY_-fc18
- 3-5 rotation: <https://youtu.be/SarKlwwP2Xo>

Coaches Chair

- Coaches are required to remain in the "Coaching Chair" area (30 ft line)
- Coaches **MAY NOT** provide instructions to the team once play begins.
 - Remember each coach has one time-out during the 30 minute game.
 - Coaches **MAY** provide positive affirmations such as "good roll", "nice job," etc.



Need to Know Numbers



- **30 minutes or 16 points** - Length of each game or the number of points scored to win the game.
 - If the score is tied - Play one more frame to break the tie
- **1 minute** - Length of a time out
- **7 minutes left to play** - “Delay of Game” if your team “slows down play” in an attempt to win the game.
 - **1** - Number of warnings your team will receive
 - **4** - The number of points the opposing team will receive if your team receives a second warning.
- **2 minute warning** - Final 2 minutes of play. When called:
 - If you are in the middle of a frame - complete it and end the game.
 - If you are about to start a frame - stop do not start a new frame
 - A frame is considered started when the palina has been rolled at least one time.

Need to Know - Golden Frame



Golden Frame - If the overall wins for each school are tied after two games (1-1 or 2-2), then a Golden Frame **may** be played to determine the overall school who wins the match.

- Each school will pick 2 athletes and 2 partners from the **same team** to play this one frame.
- Coaches report the names to the scorekeeper to add to the score sheet.
- A coin toss is held. The winner chooses their ball color & rolls the pallina first.
- **No time outs are allowed**, but all other rules are in play.
- This is only **one frame** (8 total balls rolled) – The winner of the frame wins the match.
- If both schools agree they don't want to play it, **they don't have to** and can end the **match** in a tie.
 - **If one school wants to play the Golden Frame, then the other school must play**
- It will have **NOTHING** to do with points - it is simply a tiebreaker between schools, not necessarily individual teams. This does not go towards your record and is not counted for points tracking.
- Only scheduled games will go towards record and points tracking.

Support Materials



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Ramp Styles/Building Instructions

Court Construction Diagram

Player Rotation

Blank Training Plan

Competition Format

Spectators Guide to Bocce

Game Day Score Sheet

Line-Up Cards

Letter of Intent - PIAA/SOPA State Championships



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DATES AND DEADLINES

Dates and Deadlines



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Late October – Early November

- New Coaches In-Person Trainings Held

November 17th

- First day practice can begin

November 1st – 21st

- Uniform order window and deadline. [CLICK HERE](#) to order.

December 1st

- SOPA waivers are due

December 4th

- Team Rosters are due & will be locked
- Coaches Quiz due – [CLICK HERE](#) to take quiz



Dates and Deadlines

December 6th

- Bocce Competition Management Webinar - 3:30pm – [CLICK HERE](#) to register

December 7th

- Bocce Officials Webinar - 3:30pm – [CLICK HERE](#) to register

December 11th – February 9th

- League Play



Dates and Deadlines



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January 9th

- Bocce Post Season Advancement Webinar – 3:30pm – [CLICK HERE](#) to register

January 19th

- UCS Indoor Bocce Postseason Letter of Intent due

February 12th - March 1st

- League Championships and snow-day make-up matches

February 29th

- PIAA/SOPA Bocce State Championship Webinar – 3:30pm – [CLICK HERE](#) to register

Dates and Deadlines



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March 4th - March 8th

- Regional Championships

March 8th

- PIAA/SOPA Bocce State Championship Housing Due

Wednesday & Thursday, March 20th & 21st

- PIAA/SOPA State Championship in Hershey, PA

March 29th

- Post Season Bocce Survey due – [CLICK HERE](#) to complete



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ADVANCEMENT TO PIAA/SOPA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

League Play Champions to State Qualifiers



Layered Process:

1. Division/League Championships

- a. Schools who qualify participate and receive awards for their placement in their division or league. *NOT ALL SCHOOLS OR TEAMS MAKE PLAYOFFS*

2. Regionals Qualifiers (8 around the state)

- a. The winners of the League Championships will compete against the other League Champions in their Regional Championship for the chance to earn a slot for the PIAA/SOPA Championships

1. PIAA/SOPA State Championships (winners of the Regional Qualifiers - 8 total teams advance to states)

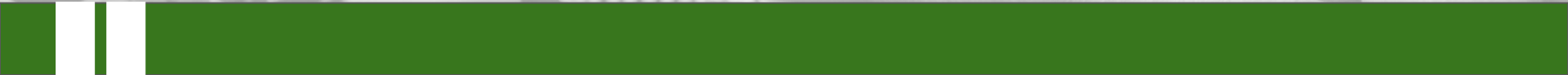
State Qualifier Groups





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PIAA/SOPA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



PIAA/SOPA Championships



January 9th

- Bocce Post Season
Advancement Webinar – 3:30pm
– [CLICK HERE](#) to register

January 19th

- UCS Indoor Bocce Postseason
Letter of Intent due

February 29th

- PIAA/SOPA Bocce State
Championship Webinar – 3:30pm
– [CLICK HERE](#) to register

March 4th - March 8th

- Regional Championships

March 8th

- PIAA/SOPA Bocce State Championship
Housing Due

Wednesday & Thursday, March 20th & 21st

- PIAA/SOPA State Championship in Hershey,
PA



PIAA/SOPA State Championships



- This year 8 teams will qualify for the Unified Indoor Bocce State Championships based on winning their respective State Qualifier.
- Dates: **Wednesday, March 20th – Thursday, March 21st**
 - Location:
 - **Wednesday evening, March 20** – Teams arrive at the Days Inn Hershey no later than 5:00 pm. All teams will be housed in that hotel in Hershey by Special Olympics PA. Group dinner and activities will be provided.
 - **Thursday morning, March 21** – GIANT Center, 550 Hersheypark Dr., Hershey, PA 17033 - CHAMPIONSHIP DAY!

PIAA/SOPA Championships



SPECIAL OLYMPICS PA WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING

- Competition management and coordination of all event logistics
- **Wednesday (March 20)** – Dinner, activities, and housing in Hershey, PA
- **Thursday (March 21)** – Breakfast, lunch, competition, Opening Ceremonies, awards ceremonies



PIAA/SOPA Championships



YOUR SCHOOL WILL PROVIDE

- Transportation to, during and from Hershey
- 2 coaches (required ratio of 4 students to 1 adult per Special Olympics PA policy)
- Teams **MUST** have a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 team members
- All athletes **MUST** be dressed in proper uniform
- Completed 2023-24 PIAA/SOPA Physical for all athletes and partners on file with their school.

A grayscale photograph of a man in a polo shirt walking through a crowd of people. The man is in the center-left, looking towards the right. He is wearing a dark polo shirt with a logo on the chest that reads "American University HIGH SCHOOL". The crowd around him is holding various items, including balloons and pom-poms. The text "QUESTIONS?" is overlaid in a bold, green, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

QUESTIONS?