

General Policies for All Special Olympics Events

MANDATORY SCREENING

- All individuals (18 and over) responsible for athletes overnight, or traveling with an agency in any capacity, must clear a background screening before attending State Games.
- No person under the age of 18 will be screened. If an individual is not 18 years of age, is considered a coach or assistant coach, he or she will be required to fill out a Volunteer Coach and Profile Form. It must be noted at the top of the form "MINOR". A minor's SS# is not required on the form.
- If the "minor" is a Unified Partner, he or she must have a completed Partners Form on file with Special Olympics Georgia by the eligibility deadline.
- Any "minor" attending games – as a coach, assistant coach, or Unified Partner -- MAY NOT be responsible for athletes overnight. An individual, over the age of 18, that has a clear background screening before attending State Games, must be responsible for the athletes overnight in the hotel / dorm rooms.

PROHIBITION ON CHARGING FEES

- Article 7, Section 7.02 of the Special Olympics, Inc. General Rules states the following concerning the charging of fees for athletes or their families:
 - "No Accredited Program may require Special Olympics athletes or their families to pay or promise to pay any type of admission, registration, training, participation, or competition fee, or any other fee or charge of any type as a condition for admission to any Special Olympics event of activity, or as a fee for the athletes' participation in any Special Olympics or competition (collectively, "Prohibited Fees").

Curfew & Supervision of Athletes

- Athletes & Coaches should be in rooms & quiet by curfew (11:00 pm). Assistant Coaches / Coaches / Chaperones are responsible for the conduct of their athletes AT ALL TIMES. Remind your athletes that there are other paying customers in the hotels. Any athlete(s) found unsupervised, or who are engaged in disruptive behavior can be disqualified from the Games. Please ensure the safety of your athletes and help provide an enjoyable weekend by being responsible for their whereabouts.

Accident Insurance

- Athletes, Coaches, and Assistant Coaches that are part of the official delegation are covered by accident insurance while attending the Games. Coverage is secondary to any primary coverage the individual has. If the individual has no coverage, the insurance becomes the primary coverage up to \$5,000. This applies ONLY to accidents (ear aches, stomach aches, etc. are not covered).
- Accident Insurance forms can be obtained from the Nerve Center.

Alcohol, Illegal Drugs

- Violation of these regulations will be cause for immediate expulsion from the Games.
- The possession or use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs by athletes, coaches, asst. coaches, and Head of Delegations is not permitted during the Games weekend.

NO Swimming Policy

- Please make sure that your coaches and assistant coaches enforce the policy of NO recreational swimming at Special Olympics Events. This includes pools, spas, hot tubs, beaches, lakes, etc.

STATE GAMES LATE GAMES PAPERWORK POLICY

***REMEMBER: NO faxed paperwork will be accepted!!

- All State Games Paperwork is due in the State Office no later than 4:00pm on the deadline date and must have been entered into GMS using Web Registration. All athletes, unified partners, and coaches must have been entered through Web Registration.
 - All delegations must participate in GMS Web Registration. **Failing to participate will result in a \$250 fee.**
 - Paperwork received in the State Office up to 3 days after the deadline will be accepted as follows:
 - For paperwork that is received after the deadline date or up to 3 days after the deadline date, the agency will be assessed a \$250 late fee.
 - After 3 days, NO GAMES PAPERWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.
 - The \$250 late assessment fee is due in the State Office by the Problem Sheet deadline date for State Games.
 - Agencies failing to pay the \$250 late assessment fee by the Problem Sheet deadline date will be unable to attend the State Games.
 - PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GET IN ALL PAPERWORK BY THE DEADLINE FOR ALL STATE GAMES.
- *** PLEASE NOTE: THIS POLICY DOES NOT APPLY TO THE ELIGIBILITY DATE FOR MEDICAL FORMS AND PARTNER FORMS. THESE FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN BY THE ELIGIBILITY DEADLINE FOR ALL STATE GAMES.***

SOGA Hotel/Dorm/Venue Emergency Plan

- In the case of an emergency please respond accordingly.
- In the case of a fire/false alarm please make sure your entire delegation calmly vacates the building and that they are all accounted for. Remember to take your keys and your housing list. (The Head of Delegation should make a final sweep of the housing/building counting your athletes/coaches and make sure you have everyone when exiting or re-entering)
- In the case of bad weather (tornado, flooding) please make sure your entire delegation is in a secure and safe environment until the weather has cleared. Make sure that each athlete/coach in your delegation is accounted for after the weather has cleared. Remember to take your keys.
- In the case of a missing member of your delegation (athlete, coach, family member) please contact the Nerve Center/SOGA Staff as soon as possible. Please calmly provide a detailed description of the situation and adhere to the SOGA Crisis Plan regarding the dissemination of information.
- The Nerve Center phone number can be found in your Information Guide (Coaches Handbook) and on your Credentials.

AGENCIES FAILING TO REPORT SCRATCHES AT STATE GAMES

- It is the responsibility of the Head of Delegation for each agency to report any scratches at the time of housing registration.
- Problems in the past with agencies not scratching athletes / partners / coaches at the time of housing registration in order to spread others out in the allotted rooms for housing have been noted by athletes or partners not participating in their events.
- If your agency does not report scratches at the time of housing registration and athletes or partners do not show up for their events, Special Olympics Georgia will re-calculate your housing numbers.
- If it is found that you should have had fewer rooms than given, you will be assessed a per room, per night charge which will need to be paid to SOGA immediately. Further assessment of the situation could result in non-participation for the next State Games.

Substitution Policy

- Substitutions are not to be made for individual sports after the substitution/problem sheet deadline.
- All team sports substitutions must be made by, or at, the time of registration for state games.
- *NO* substitutions are allowed after registration is over for state games

Commercial Messages on Athlete Uniforms and Competition Numbers

In order to avoid commercial exploitation of persons with intellectual disabilities at World, Regional or Multi-Program level Games, no uniforms, and no bibs or other signs bearing competition numbers, which are worn by Special Olympics athletes while competing or during any opening, closing, or award ceremonies of any Games may be emblazoned with commercial names or commercial messages. The only commercial markings which may be displayed on athletes' and coaches uniforms during Games competitions and opening and closing ceremonies are the normal commercial markings of the manufacturer. For purposes of this Section 5.08(a), "normal commercial markings" are limited to the following:

- (1) On larger clothing items, such as shirts, jackets, pants, jerseys, and sweatshirts, one logo or commercial name per clothing item is permissible, if that name or logo display does not exceed an area of six square inches or 38.7 square centimeters (such as a display measuring 2" x 3" or 5.08 cm x 7.62 cm);
- (2) On small clothing items, such as caps, socks, hats, gloves and belts, one logo or commercial name per clothing item is permissible, if that name or display does not exceed an area of three square inches or 19.35 square centimeters; and
- (3) On athletic shoes, no logos or commercial names are permissible except for names or logos which are included by the manufacturer on athletic shoes which are sold to the general public.

Commercial Markings on Other Athlete Apparel or Accessories

Special Olympics athletes who are not engaged in competition or in opening/closing ceremonies may wear, carry or use at Games venues other than the sites of competition (such as at training or practice sessions) clothing and/or non-apparel items which are not part of their sports equipment (such as tote bags), which contain small and attractively designed identifications of corporate or organizational sponsors.

5.08 (C)

Displays of Commercial Messages by Volunteers

Volunteers may wear clothing which bears small and attractively designed names or logos identifying corporate or organizational sponsors while attending Games competitions, so long as those displays do not exceed an area of six square inches or its metric equivalent.

Displays of Commercial Messages by Sports Officials

Sports officials may not wear, carry or use clothing or other apparel items which contain the names or logos of corporate or organizational sponsors (except for the normal commercial markings permitted under subsection (a) above) during the opening or closing ceremonies of any Games, at the sites of any Games competition or demonstration, or while officiating at any Games competition or demonstration. At other times, or at Games venues other than the sites of opening and closing ceremonies, competitions or demonstrations (such as at the sites of training and practice sessions), officials may wear, carry or use clothing or other items which contain sponsors' names or logos if those displays comply with those permitted to be displayed by volunteers under Section 5.08(c).



Fall Games
Healthy
Athletes



FREE SCREENINGS

- *Special Smiles: Dental Health Screening*
- *Healthy Hearing: Ear Check & Fitting Aid referrals*



GIVEAWAYS

- *Gift Cards for attending*
- *Fitbit raffle drawing*
- *FREE Activity Cards for All Age Groups*



REFERRAL SOURCE

Partnership with

**CENTER FOR
Leadership in Disability**

Georgia Statewide Disability & Health Program

- *Provider Referrals & Outside Education Resources*

MORE INFO

Contact: Jake Baxter

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jake.baxter@specialolympicsga.org*



Attention Heads of Delegations and Coaches

Coaches Meeting Information for State Games

Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) is going to continue the virtual Coaches Meeting format for this year's State Games. Instead of in-person meetings on Friday's after the completion of the Opening Ceremony, SOGA will be conducting Zoom Meeting webinar formatted Coaches Meetings during the week leading up to the State Event. These virtual Coaches Meetings will be sport specific meetings and will take place individually by sports venues at different times prior to the weekend of the State Event. Specific dates and times will be sent to all Heads of Delegations and Coaches after the Problem Sheet Deadline for each State Event.

SOGA has inserted documents within the State Games Paperwork packet where we are asking for all names and email addresses for certified Coaches that are going to be a registered delegate at Games, per sport. This way we can make sure we have all the Coaches information to be able to email the Coaches Meeting information to them. The meetings will be web based, so Coaches will need to be on a computer in order to access and view the meeting and the information being discussed.

All participants attending the Coaches Meetings will be muted during the call, so that it will be clear of background noise. There is a chat section within the webinar, where Coaches can type in questions that we will be able to answer during and at the end of the meeting. The Coaches Meetings will also be recorded, in which after the conclusion of each Coaches Meeting, we will email the recording out to all participants to reference or forward to others that were unable to attend.

SOGA feels that this is a positive direction we are moving to when it comes to the Coaches Meetings. The information that is discussed will be more beneficial to all because it will take place prior to competition on Friday. It will also allow for Coaches to be with their delegation after the Opening Ceremony and during the Athlete Dance when taking place.

Thank you for all you do for SOGA and the Athletes!

David Crawford
Chief Sports & Training Officer, Special Olympics Georgia

STATE GAMES FEES REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

This reimbursement policy applies to registration for all State level competitions.

While we wish we could reimburse all money your agency has paid, we incur certain costs for those of you registered for the competition, regardless of whether you attend, including:

- First night hotel expenses for your agency's rooms
- Food preparation / expenses for meals
- Cost of credentials and printed materials for your agency

We are making every effort to assist your agency as much as possible when unexpected situations arise. We know how precious every dollar is to your program. If you have any questions, please contact the SOGA State Office or call your Sports & Program Manager's Office.

IF SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA CANCELS A COMPETITION:

If SOGA cancels a State competition, by Thursday before the competition, due to dangerous weather conditions or other events beyond our control, athlete and coach assessment fees for that competition will be refunded. If SOGA cancels a State competition after competition begins, no fees will be refunded.

IF AN ENTIRE AGENCY SCRATCHES BEFORE A COMPETITION:

If an entire agency must scratch before a competition, SOGA will refund 40% of the registration fees, if the agency scratches by the problem sheet deadline date for the competition. This refund policy applies only if the ENTIRE agency scratches, not just a team or a few members of your delegation. If an agency must scratch after the problem sheet deadline, no money will be refunded.

STATE GAMES FEES SHEET:

If Games Fees are not paid in full by the problem sheet deadline, the entire agency will be scratched from games. If an agency scratches anyone from their agency after the games paperwork is due, no money will be reimbursed. In the case where fees are not paid by the paperwork deadline, the original fees (fees for the original number of agency members on paperwork) are still to be paid by the problem sheet deadline. In other words, if paperwork is turned in with no fees and an agency has scratches before fees are paid, original payment obligation cannot be decreased due to scratches. **NO PARTIAL PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**



To: Special Olympics Georgia Agencies and Volunteers

Thank you for your continued support of the athletes involved in the Special Olympics Georgia program, we appreciate your time and dedication.

Special Olympics Georgia has adopted some changes to our background screening policy for Class A Volunteers (See below list/descriptions of Class A Volunteers).

Our background screening policy is as follows:

All Class A volunteers will need to have a current, clear background screening on file with the Special Olympics Georgia state office. From the date of completion of the screening, each background screening will be valid for 3 years. After 3 years, the current background screening will cease to be valid, and a new background screening will be required before said volunteer can continue in any Class A volunteer position or activity with Special Olympics Georgia.

The only background screenings that will be accepted by Special Olympics Georgia, in order to be considered a Class A volunteer, are those screenings procured from an approved vendor through Special Olympics Georgia. Currently, the only approved vendor is Sterling Volunteers, Inc.

Effective as of May 2, 2022, Special Olympics Georgia will no longer cover the cost of a Class A volunteer's background screening. The entire cost of one background screening through Sterling Volunteers, Inc. is \$5.00 which is to be paid by the Class A volunteer requiring the background screening. This cost will be required at the time the background screening is ordered from Sterling Volunteers, Inc. Ordering of the background screening will be completed by the Class A volunteer on the Sterling Volunteer, Inc. website. Special Olympics Georgia will provide the Class A volunteer with the website link or via an e-mail invite from Sterling Volunteers, Inc. Before said volunteer will be allowed to submit his/her order online, the \$5.00 payment will be required. The web link and Good Deed code (**7n9744i**) provided in the e-mail invite must be utilized for the background screening to be linked with Special Olympics Georgia's account.

Once a background screening has been reviewed by Sterling Volunteers, Inc., a report will be provided automatically to the Class A volunteer and to Special Olympics Georgia via the secure online account through Sterling Volunteers, Inc.

Volunteer positions that are required to be Class A status are as follows:

- Local Coordinators
- Area Management Team members
- Local Management Team members
- Certified coaches
- State Games, Games Organizing Committee Members
- Bus drivers, nurses, chaperones, unified partners and any other volunteer attending a State Competition with a Special Olympics Georgia delegation.

If you have additional questions, please email Elizabeth Joyce:

Elizabeth.Joyce@specialolympicsga.org

POLICY CONCERNING COACHES / CHAPERONES / NURSES / BUS DRIVERS / ETC

- ◆ This policy applies to all State Games except for the Horse Show.
- ◆ All coaches / chaperones / nurses / bus drivers / etc. who a part of an agency's official delegation that exceed the quota listed below, will be assessed a fee of \$25.00 per person to attend State Games.
- ◆ The official agency delegation will consist of athletes / partners, plus the following allotment of coaches / chaperones / bus drivers / nurses / etc.
 - ◆ TEAMS –
3 coaches per team allotted for floor hockey teams, softball teams, basketball teams, volleyball teams, flag football teams and soccer teams.

1 coach per team allotted for bowling and bocce.
 - ◆ INDIVIDUAL SPORTS –
1 coach per 3 athletes allotted.
 - ◆ WHEELCHAIR & LEVEL A ATHLETES
1 coach per 1 athlete allotted.
 - ◆ ADDITIONAL –
1 additional coach will be added to your allotment to be utilized as necessary by your agency.

ALL additional coaches / chaperones / nurses / bus drivers, not in the above allotment, will be assessed a fee of \$25.00 (covers meals, credentials, processing expenses and insurance) per person to attend State Games. Agencies ARE responsible for securing additional housing for these additional persons. **SOGA will no longer provide additional housing for any agency.**

HOTEL HOUSING: FOR 2024 FALL GAMES - Special Olympics Georgia houses 2 persons per room in a Double / Double or King with pullout sofa and 1 person per room in a King.

DORM HOUSING: Special Olympics Georgia houses 1 person per bed, up to 2 persons per room.



**CHEAT SHEET FOR SPORTS NUMBERS
FOR STATE GAMES ATTENDANCE**

<u>TEAM SPORT</u>	<u># PLAYERS PER TEAM</u>	<u># COACHES PER TEAM</u>
Bocce	4 (Unified) or 4 (Traditional)	1
Basketball	10	3
Basketball (3vs.3)	5	2
Bowling	4	1
Floor Hockey	13	3
Soccer	10	3
Softball	12 (Traditional)	3
	12 (Modified)	3
	14 (Unified)	3
Volleyball	10	3
Flag Football	10	3

ALL OTHER SPORTS INCLUDING SKILLS FOR TEAM SPORTS

3 Athletes / 1 Coach

LEVEL A / WHEELCHAIR

1 Athlete / 1 Coach

ADDITIONAL COACH / CHAPERONE

1 Additional Coach allowed per delegation (floating coach, nurse, bus driver, etc.)

****NOTE: All athletes must be trained by a certified coach. The certified coach's name must appear on the roster form sent in with the State Games paperwork.**

INDIVIDUAL ROLES & REQUIREMENTS AT STATE GAMES

- **Athlete** = A Special Olympics Athlete competing in the Games. All Athletes MUST have an active Doctor signed medical form on file with SOGA by the eligibility/paperwork deadline in order to compete at any State Event. The medical expiration date (expires every three years) must not expire before or during the date of the State Event.
- **Unified Partner** = A Unified Partner, with a complete Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile form on file, competing in the Games. Any Unified Partner that is 18 years of age or older must be screened by Special Olympics Georgia via the Verified Volunteers website and complete the Online Protective Behaviors Course. Unified Partners participating in the Games are not to be held responsible or liable for the Athletes. The ultimate responsibility and liability belongs to the Head of Delegation for all Athletes and Unified Partners.
- **Head of Delegation** = Individual that has completed the Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile form, screened by Special Olympics Georgia via the Verified Volunteers website, completed the Online Protective Behaviors Course, signed and submitted the Coach Code of Conduct form and completed the Concussion Training Online Course. The Head of Delegation is responsible for all Athletes and Unified Partners competing in the Games.
- **Coach(es)** = Individual responsible for team or individual sports athletes competing in the Games that has completed the Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile form, screened by Special Olympics Georgia via the Verified Volunteers website, completed the Online Protective Behaviors Course, signed and submitted the Coach Code of Conduct form and completed the Concussion Training Online Course.
- **Chaperone(s) & Extra people not in quota** = Individual responsible for athletes competing in the Games that has completed the Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile form, screened by Special Olympics Georgia via the Verified Volunteers website, completed the Online Protective Behaviors Course, signed and submitted the Coach Code of Conduct form and completed the Concussion Training Online Course.
- **Horse Handlers / Side Walkers** = Individual responsible for assisting athletes competing in the Games and has completed the Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile form. Any Horse Handler or Side Walker that is 18 years of age or older must be screened by Special Olympics Georgia via the Verified Volunteers website, complete the Online Protective Behaviors Course, and complete the Concussion Training Online Course.
- **Bus or Van Driver** = Individual responsible for transporting the delegation during the Games. Any Bus or Van Driver that is 18 years of age or older must complete the Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile form, be screened by Special Olympics Georgia via the Verified Volunteers website, complete the Online Protective Behaviors Course, sign and submit the Coach Code of Conduct form and complete the Concussion Training Online Course.

SPORT SPECIFIC RULES

General Rules that pertain to ALL competitions sanctioned by Special Olympics:

- **No coach** shall be allowed on playing field, court, lanes, rink, etc. during divisioning or competition except for sports having modifications set forth by Special Olympics Georgia. (Example: Softball Team, Soccer Team, and Basketball Team competitions)
- Assistance shall be provided by a volunteer that is working any particular venue.
- Proper uniform clothing / safety equipment shall be worn for ALL competitions. Refer to Sports Rules Book for guidelines.
- No agency shall have an athlete or partner competing in Special Olympics that competes for a middle or high school team in the same sport, during the same season.
- All coaches shall follow the Code of Conduct displayed at www.specialolympics.org or will be dismissed from coaching responsibilities.
- All coaches must dress appropriately on the playing field, court, etc. (Example: Softball Competition – Coaches should wear like uniforms or khaki shorts and team shirt with athletic socks and shoes / cleats.)
- Coaches should represent his / her team in a professional, positive, and encouraging manner.
- **Athletes of the coaches not abiding by these general rules may be eliminated from competition.**

Bocce

- Athletes shall wear like uniforms: shorts or warm up pants, like shirts, socks, and athletic shoes for competition.
- No jeans shall be allowed for competition.

Cycling

- Bicycle helmets are required.
- Athletes shall wear bicycle shorts or athletic shorts (warm up pants if cold) for competition.
- No jeans allowed for competition.

Golf

- Athletes shall wear khaki or colored slacks / shorts with polo or nice agency t-shirt.
- No jeans or sweat pants allowed for competition.

Softball

- Athletes shall wear matching uniforms with numbers, socks, and athletic shoes or softball cleats for competition.
- NO metal cleats allowed.
- No jeans shall be allowed for competition.
- Athletes shall wear NO jewelry.
- Catchers are required to wear facemask, batter's helmet w/earflaps or catcher's helmet, chest protector, leg protectors.
- All batters and base runners are required to wear a batter's helmet with Chinstraps. NO coaches will be allowed on the field of play except for the 1st base and 3rd base coach.
- The designated pitching coach in the Modified Team Play Division will pitch only – no coaching allowed from this position while on the field of play.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA PARADE OF ATHLETES LINE-UP & AGENCY FLAG / BANNER REQUIREMENTS

The following are the requirements concerning the Parade of Athletes and Flag/Banner's for all Special Olympics Georgia Opening Ceremony's:

- ◆ The parade line-up can only contain 2 Athletes & 1 Coach per delegation. If you have more, you will not be allowed to walk in the parade.
- ◆ Flag or Banner should be 3' x 5' on a 5' pole (if desired).
- ◆ Flag or Banner should be made of cotton, vinyl, felt, or other like material.
- ◆ Flag or Banner should be able to be rolled up for safety after the Parade of Athletes.
- ◆ Flag or Banner should display the Special Olympics Georgia logo.
- ◆ No Flag or Banner should display a commercial sponsor, commercial message, or their product. ***(This is not a recommendation but a policy of Special Olympics, Inc.)***

BOCCE
GENERAL RULES

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall govern all Special Olympics Bocce competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon the International Federation for Bocce rules for Bocce competition. International Federation for Bocce rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall apply.

OFFICIAL EVENTS OFFERED

1. Unified Team – Any combination of males and females (*2 Special Olympics Athletes and 2 Unified Partners*)
2. Traditional Team – Any combination of males and females (4 Special Olympics Athletes)

SECTION A – GENERAL RULES

1. Competition will follow the International Federation for Bocce rules except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.
2. Athletes will follow bracket play as assigned prior to competition.
3. All Athletes and Unified Partners are required to have assessment scores submitted prior to competition.
4. Athletes or Unified Partners in a wheelchair are able to compete only if they are able to transport the ball, and release the ball, independently.
5. All Athletes and Unified Partners on a team must be able to roll the ball independently.
6. Legal line up for team competition:
 - a. A Traditional Team must register 4 Athletes for a Traditional Team to be eligible. However, if a team is short-handed, the legal line up shall consist of three players with the fourth position counted as a “blind” roll. (The 4th ball is considered a “dead ball”).
 - b. A Unified Team must register 2 Athletes and 2 Unified Partners to be eligible. However, if a team is short-handed, the legal line up shall consist of three players (*2 Athletes and 1 Unified Partner*) with the fourth position counted as a “blind” roll. (The 4th ball is considered a “dead ball”).
 - c. NOTE: No “Alternate” players can be entered on Games paperwork.
 - d. If teams show up for competition and a player becomes ill and is unable to compete, the team will either follow the “blind” rules or forfeit from competition. **NO SUBSTITUTIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER COMPETITION BEGINS.**
7. Any team late or missing a bracketed game time, will forfeit that spot in the bracket and be placed in the loser’s bracket for competition.

8. Any protests or rules infractions must be brought to the attention of the sports rules committee.
9. Coaches, chaperones, parents, etc. are not allowed on the playing field during competition. Once competition begins, coaches and spectators are not allowed to coach.

NOTE: “Special Needs Athlete or Unified Partner” – If Special Needs is noted, this athlete’s coach will be allowed on the field for consultation with the volunteer during a special time period set up just prior to the beginning of competition. A “special needs athlete” is one who has a communication limitation, hearing impairment, visual impairment, or behavioral need.

10. Athletes and volunteers are not allowed to smoke, eat food or drink during competition. Water will be provided for hydration.
11. Athletes, coaches, volunteers or any other Special Olympics supporters are not allowed to smoke at the competition site. Alcohol and Illegal Drugs are prohibited from all Special Olympics events.
12. Uniforms / clothing – Athletes must be neat in their dress and wear proper bocce clothing. No cut off shorts or shirts with advertising will be allowed. Teams must wear like shirts. No jeans or camouflage (pants, capris, skirts, or shorts) shall be worn for competition. It is suggested that players wear khaki or colored shorts, slacks, or sweat pants and a collared shirt or nice tee. **Closed toed shoes must be worn!**

BOCCE
DIVISIONING ASSESSMENT UPDATED

Equipment: The equipment will be a regulation bocce set and bocce court.

Object: The object of this skill is to roll bocce balls closest to the pallina to gain a score accurate for divisioning.

Rules:

- The pallina will be placed on the 30' line for the athlete.
- The athlete will roll eight balls from behind the 10' foul line.
- ***If the pallina is moved when a ball is rolled, replace the pallina on the 30' line before rolling the next ball.***
- The coach will measure the closest three balls and record their distance in centimeters.

- The pallina will be placed on the 40' line for the athlete.
- The athlete will roll eight balls from behind the 10' foul line.
- ***If the pallina is moved when a ball is rolled, replace the pallina on the 40' line before rolling the next ball.***
- The coach will measure the closest three balls and record their distance in centimeters.

- The pallina will be placed on the 50' line for the athlete.
- The athlete will roll eight balls from behind the 10' foul line.
- ***If the pallina is moved when a ball is rolled, replace the pallina on the 50' line before rolling the next ball.***
- The coach will measure the closest three balls and record their distance in centimeters.

Scoring: Measurements will be taken from the center top of the bocce ball to the center top of the pallina, for a total of nine measurements. These divisioning procedures comply with the Special Olympics honest-effort rule.

Record: Record the athletes' scores on the score sheet for each team. Turn in the measurement total with the games paperwork. This will help to ensure proper divisioning.

BOCCE DIVISIONING SCORESHEET – Measure in Centimeters

Athlete / Partner Name	30' line	30' line	30' line	40' line	40' line	40' line	50' line	50' line	50' line	TOTAL

** Measure the 3 closest balls for each distance. Measurements will be taken from the center top of the bocce ball to the center top of the pallina in centimeters, for a total of measurements.

** Record each measurement. Total all measurements. The total is what is recorded on the games paperwork under "Bocce Division Score"

STATE FALL GAMES SOFTBALL IMPORTANT RULES

- Chinstraps for helmets are **required** for all levels of play – this includes all Invitationals and State Games.
- **Modified Team, Traditional Team and Unified Team Play** will be playing with the 2nd Home Plate and 20' Commit Line – this includes all Invitationals and State Games. This rule and diagram can be found at www.asasoftball.com 2010 ASA Rules of Softball, page 34.
- Traditional Team and Unified Team Play will be using a .44 core, optic colored ball at State Fall Games. If you are interested in ordering the same ball we will be using, you can order from www.adstarr.com and the item number is A12.44 P/L Optic.
- The pitching mound distances have changed in 2017 for Traditional & Unified Team Play. The NEW distances are:

PITCHING – Junior Traditional and Junior Unified (**40' – 50'**)

Senior Traditional and Senior Unified (**40' - 50' for Traditional and 50' for Unified**) – *(An exception may be made for 1st year Senior Traditional Teams just moving up from Modified Softball Team Play)*

Masters Traditional and Masters Unified (**40' - 50' for Traditional and 50' for Unified**)
Modified (**50'**)

- Modified Team Play will be using the same Modified ball that we have used in the past. You can also order those at www.adstarr.com and the item number is SS1-12-S Optic.
- A Modified Team consists of players that are moving from the Softball Skills level and do not possess the full knowledge of the game and of team play. A Team cannot be considered as Modified if the only reason is that the team does not have an athlete that can pitch.
Please assess your team(s) and make sure they are playing at the level they should be. Modified Teams that are capable of playing in the Traditional Team Play Divisions should be moved to that level and train a pitcher to pitch. *Do not hold your athletes back from competing at the next level due to coaching ease.*
- Modified Teams attending State Games that possess higher skills and should be playing in a Traditional Team Play Division will be moved to a Traditional Team Level of Play or will forfeit the tournament.
- It is highly recommended that all teams wishing to attend State Fall Games attend one of the qualifying Softball Invitationals. Teams attending one of these Invitationals will be properly divisioned for State Fall Games.

It is highly recommended that you bring the same team to the Invitational that you will bring to State Fall Games to ensure fair and equitable divisioning. Teams not attending one of these Invitationals will be placed in a separate division for State Fall Games.

Determining Softball Levels

Special Olympics Georgia offers 4 Levels of progression for the sport of Softball. Below is a chart of progressive levels of play along with the definitions of how to determine your athletes' level of play.

- Softball Skills – Athletes possess a low level of basic skills that pertain to softball.
- Modified Team Play (Traditional) – Athletes moving up from the Softball Skills level wanting to be part of a team but continue to possess a low level of basic skills. Athletes have progressed to the level of being able to play on a team. However, athletes do not fully understand the concept of the game of softball. Athletes continue to need direction on basic skills and frequent coaching on offense and defense. Modified Team Play rules allow for a coach to pitch to the athletes. ***Overall Rating Score on the Assessment for Individuals for Teams = 2 to 3 (By definition, a team is not modified if the only reason they are playing at this level is due to not having an athlete able to pitch for the team. By doing so, the coach is discrediting the team and overall experience for the athletes.)***
- Traditional Team Softball – Athletes have progressed to the skill level of being able to understand most basic game situations and what to do in most game situations. Athletes continue to need coach instruction in some game situations. However, the team is playing on their own at a typical level. ***Overall Rating Score on the Assessment for Individuals for Teams = 3 to 8***
- Unified Team Softball – Athletes and Unified Partners possess higher skills that pertain to the sport of softball. Athletes and Unified Partners have an understanding of their role and teammates' roles on the field of play. Unified Teams play at a higher skill level of competition so greater knowledge of the game of softball is needed. ***Overall Rating Score on the Assessment for Individuals for Teams = 3 to 8 (All Athletes and Unified Partners on the team must possess comparable skill levels and be comparable in age.)***



SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

NOTE: All attached Rules and Regulations will be adhered to for all Tournaments, Invationals, etc. that use the Special Olympics name.

Special Olympics Georgia Softball Rules are based on ASA (Amateur Softball Association) Slow Pitch Rules and modifications from the Official Special Olympics Summer Sports Rules book (2010 Revised Edition).

This is only a synopsis of the Rules and the Coach should refer to the ASA Rules Book and the Special Olympics Rules book for complete information. For Unified Team Play, refer to the section attached labeled "Unified Teams, Softball Rules and Regulations".

TEAM NUMBERS: Traditional = 12 players per team, Modified = 12 players per team, Unified = 14 players per team (7 Athletes / 7 Partners). NOTE: There is NO Unified Modified teams.

RULE 1, DEFINITIONS:

BATTER'S BOX – The lines are considered as being within the batter's box. Prior to the pitch, the batter may touch the lines, but no part of his / her foot may be outside the lines.

FOUL TIP – A foul tip is a batted ball, which goes directly from the bat, not higher than the batter's head, to the catcher's hand(s) or glove and is legally caught by the catcher. NOTE: It is not an out unless the ball goes higher than the batter's head.

HELMET – The helmet must have **double earflaps and a chinstrap**, which is approved by the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE).

ILLEGALLY BATTED BALL – An illegally batted ball occurs when:

1. A batter's entire foot is completely outside the lines of the batter's box and on the ground.
2. Any part of the batter's foot is touching home plate when the batter hits the ball.
3. The batter hits the ball with an illegal or altered bat.

STRIKE ZONE – The strike zone is that space over any part of home plate between the batter's back shoulder and his front knee when he assumes a natural batting stance.

BLOOD RULE – Any area exposed with blood must be handled / covered as stipulated in the ASA rules. This will be enforced.

INFIELD FLY – Refer to ASA Rules book for the definition of the Infield Fly.

PROTESTS – Refer to ASA Rules book for clarification of protests. **(Must be filed within 15 minutes upon completion of the game.)**

RULE 2, THE PLAYING FIELD

BASES – 65' (19.81 meters) {the double base will be used on first base}

The Double base on first base measures 15" x 30" and is made of canvas or other suitable material. Half the base is white (over fair territory) and half is orange (over foul territory). The rules concerning the double base can be found in the ASA Rules book, and will be enforced.

The 2nd Home Plate and 20' Commit Line will be used in Modified, Traditional and Unified Team Competition. Refer to the ASA Rules at www.asasoftball.com page 34.

PITCHING – Junior Traditional and Junior Unified (40' – 50')

Senior Traditional and Senior Unified (40' - 50' for Traditional and 50' for Unified) – *(An exception may be made for 1st year Senior Traditional Teams just moving up from Modified Softball Team Play)*

Masters Traditional and Masters Unified (40' - 50' for Traditional and 50' for Unified)
Modified (50')

RULE 3, EQUIPMENT

BAT – Only bats marked by the manufacturer as "Official Softball" **and bear either the ASA 2000 Certification Mark or the ASA 2004 Certification Mark and must not be listed on the ASA Non-Approved Bat List** may be used (ASA Rules – Rule 3, Section 1)

SOFTBALLS – A 30cm (11 ¾") red-stitch restricted softball with core .44 optic must be used. **Modified Teams will use a 12" Synthetic Cover, Soft Training Softball for competition.**

GLOVES – A first baseman's trapping-type mitt may be worn by first basemen and catchers only. A glove is required for all players.

SHOES – Athletic shoes or rubber-cleated shoes are required. No metal spikes or hard plastic or polyurethane spike shoes are allowed. Hard sole street shoes are not allowed.

CATCHERS – All catchers must wear a facemask and batter's helmet with double earflaps or a catcher's helmet. **Chest protectors and leg protectors** will also be required.

HELMETS – All batters (including the on deck batter) and base runners must wear a batting helmet with double earflaps **and a chinstrap**. (SOGA modification of rule)

UNIFORMS – Team members shall wear shirts of like color. A number approximately 6" in height (of a contrasting color) must be worn on the back of all uniform shirts. No two (2) players on the team may have identical numbers. **Shirts with numbers must also be worn for divisioning.** Plastic sun visors are not permitted during play. **Coaches must be neatly attired and dressed alike in team uniform and in accordance with the color code of the team. (Closed toed shoes must be worn by coaches! No flip flops or sandals are to be worn!)** **NO JEANS WILL BE ALLOWED FOR ANY ATHLETE OR UNIFIED PARTNER FOR DIVISIONING OR COMPETITION.**

JEWELRY – Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game with the exception of flat, unjeweled wedding bands.

MEDICAL ALERT JEWELRY – Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so as to remain visible.

RULE 4, PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES

A team should field ten (10) players to start a game. The short-handed rule (ASA) may be used in continuing a game. Refer to the ASA Rules book for a complete explanation of the short-handed rule.

If you start the game with 9 players an out will be taken when the 10th position in the lineup comes up for bat.

When absolutely necessary, a courtesy runner will be allowed once per inning for a player with a physical disability or other medical condition without retiring that player from the game if the umpire and opposing coach are notified before each game. This information must also be noted on the scorebook prior to the game. The courtesy runner must be the last recorded out (or the player scheduled to bat last, if in the first inning with no outs). The courtesy runner must be entered prior to the first pitch to the next batter. The batter must get to first base by him / her self before a runner can be put in. The courtesy runner may be substituted after the batter has arrived on first base and the play is dead.

EXTRA PLAYER (EP) – An extra player (EP) is optional, but if one is used, it must be made known prior to the start of the game and be listed on the scoring sheet in the regular batting order. If the EP is used, he must be used the entire game. Failure to complete the game with 11 batters as a result of an ejected player, results in a forfeiture of the game unless the short-handed rule is used (See ASA Rules).

The EP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game. If an EP is used, all 11 must bat and any 10 may play defense. Defensive positions may be changed, but the batting order must remain the same.

The EP may be substituted at any time. The substitute must be a player who has not yet been in the game. The starting EP may re-enter.

RE-ENTRY – Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered once, provided players occupy the same batting positions whenever they are in the line-up. The starting player and the substitute(s) may not be in the line-up at the same time. (See ASA Rules)

Every player listed on the Team Roster for the Tournament MUST play one complete inning per game.

BATTING OPTIONS – Teams may choose to bat all 12 players on the roster. Teams choosing this option are allowed free substitutions in the field each inning. This must be decided at the beginning of the game and shall hold true throughout the game. If a player is unable to bat due to sickness or injury, when said player comes up in the batting line up, it will constitute as an out.

RULE 5, THE GAME

A regulation game shall consist of 7 innings or one hour. The game will be considered complete if after 5 full innings of play one team leads the other by 10 runs or more, after 4 innings if ahead by 15 runs, or after 3 innings if ahead by 20 runs. **NO OTHER RUN RULES WILL BE ADHERED TO. Teams should be sure to turn in accurate scores for divisioning.**

Time limit on games: NO new inning will start after 1 hour play. If game is tied after 1 hour of play, the International Tie Breaker Rule will be applied in order to end the game.

RULE 6, PITCHING REGULATIONS (SLOW PITCH)

The pitcher shall have one or both feet in contact with the pitcher's rubber. The pitcher's pivot foot must be in contact with the pitcher's rubber until the pitched ball leaves the hand.

A legal delivery shall be a ball which is delivered to the batter with an underhanded motion. The pitch shall be released at a moderate speed. The ball must be delivered with perceptible arc and reach a height of at least 6' from the ground while not exceeding a maximum height of 12' from the ground.

In the **Modified Division**, the Coach will pitch to his / her own team when they come to bat.) **Modified Teams will use a 12" Synthetic Cover, Soft Training Softball for competition.**

The maximum number of pitches to a single batter will be 5 pitches. The coach will pitch from the **50'** pitching rubber but must then move out of the way to allow the defensive player in the pitching position the chance to field the ball. If the batted ball hits the coach who is pitching, the batter will be out. Balls will not be called and walks will not be allowed. If the batter swings 3 times and misses, he / she is out. The coach must remember that his / her role on the mound is pitching, not coaching.

WARM-UP PITCHES – At the beginning of each half inning, or when a pitcher relieves another, not more than one minute may be used to deliver not more than three (3) warm-up pitches. Play shall be suspended for this time. For excessive warm-up pitches, a pitcher shall be penalized by awarding a ball to the batter for each pitch.

RULE 7, BATTING

The on-deck batter shall take a position within the lines of the on-deck circle nearest his / her bench.

The batter must have both feet completely within the lines of the batter's box prior to the start of the pitch. He / she may touch the lines, but no part of a foot may be outside the lines prior to the pitch. The umpire should hold up the pitch until the batter is within the lines.

A foul tip is an out if it is the third strike.

The batter is out when an entire foot touching the ground completely outside the lines of the batter's box when he / she hits a ball, foul or fair.

The batter is out when any part of a foot is touching home plate when he / she hits a ball, foul or fair.

The batter is out if he / she bunts or chops the ball.

Four balls constitute a walk and three strikes constitute an out. If the batter has two strikes and fouls off the third pitch, he / she shall be declared out.

RULE 8, BATTER – RUNNER AND RUNNER

The batter becomes a batter-runner as soon as he / she hits a fair ball.

If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally, he / she may do so by notifying the plate umpire who shall award the batter first base.

Bases left too soon on a caught fly ball must be retouched prior to advancing.

Base stealing is NOT allowed.

The batter – runner is out when he / she hits an infield fly, as declared by the umpire, with runners on first and second or on first, second, and third with fewer than two outs. This is called the INFIELD FLY RULE.

If a coach touches a runner while the ball is still in play, the runner will be declared out. Coaches are required to stay within the boundaries of the Coaches' box.

RULE 9, PROTESTS

Refer to ASA Rules

Protests may be submitted up to 15 minutes following the game. The rules committee will decide the outcome of the protest.

RULE 10, UMPIRES

The Umpires are empowered to make all decisions on the playing field. A protest may be made only if it questions the applicability of the rules. No protest will be considered which pertains to any judgment call made by an umpire.

In the case of a protest, the team coach of the protesting team shall immediately notify the plate umpire that the game is being played under protest. The plate umpire shall in turn notify the opposing coach, official scorekeeper, and SOGA Rules Committee member(s).

The official written protest must be filed with the SOGA Rules Committee within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the game. The decision rendered on a protested game must result in one of the following:

1. Protest is considered to be invalid and the game score stands as played.
2. When a protest is determined to be valid because of the misinterpretation of a playing rule, the decision will be corrected and the game shall be replayed from the point at which the incorrect decision was made.
3. When a protest for ineligibility is determined to be valid, the offending team shall forfeit the game being played or the game last played to the offended team. The team forfeiting the game will receive participation ribbons.

30 minutes before each game, the umpires and team representatives will flip for home position. The coach should report to the main building 30 minutes before game time.



MODIFIED SOFTBALL TEAM PLAY

“COACH PITCH”

**** All rules concerning equipment, bats, balls, helmets, etc. can be found under the “Traditional Softball Rules and Regulations”. Listed below are the modifications to those rules. ****

2012 – The 2nd Home Plate and 20’ Commit Line Rules will be used in Modified Team Play. Refer to the ASA Rules at www.asasoftball.com page 34.

COACH PITCH is for teams comprised of lower level athletes just coming up from Softball Skills and learning the team play concept and rules.

If a team comes to games entering the “Modified Softball Team” division and does not meet the specified criteria, the team will be moved to another division and will not be allowed Coach Pitch modifications.

Coach Pitch teams will be comprised of 12 Special Olympics athletes only (NO unified partners).

Each player will be allowed 5 pitches only.

- No walks will be granted.
- Hit or out will be the only two options.
- 3 swings constitute an out.
- Third strike foul tip is an out.

The coach pitching the ball will not be allowed to make intentional interference on the play of the ball. If the coach makes an intentional interference on the play of the ball, it will result in an out for the batter. (The only exception is personal protection from the ball such as a line drive **directly** back to the coach pitcher).

Only 2 Coach Pitchers will be allowed for each team. These 2 names must be submitted on the original games paperwork and will be the only 2 pitchers allowed during the tournament. **Coach pitchers must pitch from the 50’ pitching rubber.** The coach pitcher is not allowed to coach the batter in any way. The job of the coach pitcher is strictly pitching.

**See attached Softball Rules and Regulations for specified equipment (including specific modified softballs) and other rules.

**Special Olympics Georgia reserves the right to move a Modified Team into a Traditional Team bracket if the rules committee deems the team is inappropriate for Modified Team Play.



UNIFIED TEAMS SOFTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS

**** All rules concerning equipment, bats, balls, helmets, etc. can be found under the “Traditional Softball Rules and Regulations”. Listed below are the additions to those rules. ****

****A Unified Team will consist of up to 14 players (7 Special Olympics Athletes and 7 Unified Partners or equal numbers of Athletes and Partners for teams with less than 14 players). Special Olympics Athletes and Unified Partners must be comparable in age and skill ability. Unified Sports Teams in Team Competition (Note: difference in Unified Sports Teams in Individual Team Competition such as Bocce or Bowling) require that all players possess higher skill levels than Traditional Team Competition. Athletes not possessing the skills comparable to the skills of the Partners are at risk for serious injuries. Special Olympics Georgia possesses the right to remove any team from competition when the team is not suitable for said competition of play.****

Special Olympics Georgia Softball Rules for Unified Team Play are based on ASA (Amateur Softball Association) CO-ED Rules and modifications from the Official Special Olympics Summer Sports Rules Book.

All rules noted on the previous pages apply with the following modifications:

- Each team shall have an adult non-playing coach responsible for the line-up and conduct of the team during competition.
- The 11 ¾” red-stitch (core .44 optic) restricted softball must be used for all players.
- The batting order for Unified play shall alternate Partners and Special Olympics athletes **and be marked on the line up with “A” or “P” beside the players’ name to indicate Athlete or Partner.**
- Defensive positioning on the field: 2 Special Olympics athletes and 2 Partners in the infield, 2 Special Olympics athletes and 2 Partners in the outfield, and 1 Special Olympian and 1 Partner as pitcher and catcher.
- If you start the game with 10 players, you must have 5 Special Olympics athletes and 5 Partners and must continue the game with this number.
- If you start the game with 9 players, you must have 5 Special Olympics athletes and 4 Partners. An out will be taken when the 10th position in the lineup comes up for bat.
- When the EP is used in Unified, the team will consist of 12 players, 10 of whom will play defense and all 12 will bat. The 2 EP’s will be one Special Olympics athlete and one Partner. Defensive positions may be changed as long as the defensive alignment of Partners and Special Olympics athletes cited above is maintained. The batting order must remain the same throughout the game. **The 2 remaining players (if the roster consists of all 14 players) will be substituted into the game for at least one complete inning of play.**
- Any walk to a Partner (intentional or not) will result in a 2 base award. The next batter (a Special Olympics athlete) will bat. EXCEPTION: With two (2) outs, the Special Olympics athlete batter has the option to walk or bat.
- The **CO-ED LINE rule** will be in effect. The line will be an arc in the outfield, a minimum of 50’ off of the skin line (grass / dirt line). All outfielders must remain behind the CO-ED line until the ball is hit **by an athlete or partner**. All infielders must remain on the “dirt” until the ball is hit **by an athlete or partner**. PENALTY: the batter may accept the result of the play or he / she is awarded first base.



- The Pitching distance shall be **50'** in **Senior Unified and Masters Unified** competition. The Pitching distance shall be **40' – 50'** in **Junior Unified** competition.

NOTE: The Special Olympics athlete must receive first opportunity to make a play. A Partner may back up the athlete but can not take over play for the athlete.

NOTE: The Unified Procedures Committee (Rules Committee) will be present at all Unified competition to help assure that the policy of Unified competition is being followed – primarily that **ALL PLAYERS MUST BE MEANINGFULLY INVOLVED IN THE GAME. All players listed on the roster must play at least one complete inning.** If the Rules Committee observes repeated domination by one player over another or by multiple team members, it is their responsibility to bring it to the attention of the Umpire. For the first offense, the Umpire may warn both the player and coach. On a repeat offense, if the domination is flagrant, the player may be ejected from the game. If a team continues to ignore the policy of all players being meaningfully involved by dominating play, the Umpire may confer with the Unified Procedures Committee (Rules Committee) and a forfeit be called. That team forfeiting would receive participation ribbons.

Only bats marked “Official Softball” will be used. Bats must bear either the ASA 2000 Certification Mark or the ASA 2004 Certification Mark and must not be listed on the ASA Non-Approved Bat List.

Special Olympics Georgia - Softball Skills Assessment for Individuals on Teams

Name: _____ Athlete Partner
 Jersey Number: _____ Coach's Name: _____
 Team Name: _____ Evaluator's Name: _____
 Delegation: _____ Date of Evaluation: _____ / _____ / _____

Individual Assessment for Team Play

A. Hitting (one choice- the most representative of the athlete's skill level)
 Athlete needs direction on proper stance, grip, and place to stand (2)
 Athlete exhibits proper stance and grip, knows place to stand, but does not usually make contact with the ball (3)
 Athlete occasionally makes contact, but is not familiar with what is a strike pitch (4)
 Athlete regularly makes contact, but does not hit the ball out of the infield (5)
 Athlete regularly makes contact and occasionally hits the ball to outfield (6)
 Athlete regularly makes contact and hits the ball with power and velocity (7)
 Athlete has the ability to place hit balls in opposite fields (8)

SCORE:

B. Fielding (one choice- the most representative of the athlete's skill level)
 Athlete is unable to make basic fielding plays (catching fly balls and/or grounders) (2)
 Athlete occasionally cleanly fields balls hit directly to them (3)
 Athlete cleanly fields balls hit directly to them three out of five times and attempts to field balls hit within three to four feet of them (4)
 Athlete occasionally fields balls hit within three to four feet of them (5)
 Athlete fields balls four out of five times when hit within three to four feet of them (6)
 Athlete routinely makes all basic plays and some difficult plays such as turning double plays, tracking deep fly balls and fielding hard grounders (8)

SCORE:

C. Base Running (one choice- the most representative of the athlete's skill level)
 Athlete needs direction on when to run (2)
 Athlete understands when to run, but will only move forward one base without coaching (3)
 Athlete has a basic understanding of when to take more than one base (4)
 Athlete has a fair understanding of when to run, sometimes looks to the coach for cues and direction (5)
 Athlete has a good understanding of when to run, knows when to tag up and run (6)
 Athlete has a complete understanding of when to run, how many bases to take, and how to slide effectively (7)
 Athlete consistently able to pick-up and use the coach's direction (8)

SCORE:

D. Game Awareness (one choice- the most representative of the athlete's skill level)
 Athlete needs frequent coaching in offense and defense (2)
 Athlete has understanding of the most basic game situations (3)
 Athlete has a fair understanding of what to do in most game situations, but still requires coaching (4)
 Athlete has a clear understanding of what to do in most game situations, requires little to no coaching (5)
 Athlete is able to make the play at hand, also recognizing other action occurring which may require attention-backing up other players, run down situations, etc (6)
 Athlete has a complete understanding of their role and teammates' roles, using that leadership to direct play on the field (8)

SCORE:

Special Olympics Georgia - Softball Skills Assessment for Individuals on Teams

E. Throwing

(one choice- the most representative of the athlete's skill level)

- Athlete has difficulty throwing the ball on the run for any distance (2)
- Athlete is able to throw the ball on the run a distance of at least ten feet (3)
- Athlete regularly make throws of at least 25 feet (4)
- Athlete regularly makes accurate throws of up to 25 feet (6)
- Athlete regularly makes accurate throws within infield or from the outfield to a cut-off (7)
- Athlete regularly throws the ball accurately to any other position or player on the field, with speed and velocity (8)

SCORE:

F. Pitching

(one choice- the most representative of the athlete's skill level)

- Athlete has the right distance, but is consistently unable to get the ball over the plate for a strike (2)
- Athlete occasionally throws the ball in the strike zone, but without the correct arch (3)
- Athlete frequently throws the ball in the strike zone, but without the correct arch (4)
- Athlete occasionally throws quality pitches for strikes showing the proper technique and delivery (6)
- Athlete frequently throws quality pitches for strikes showing the proper technique and delivery (7)
- Athlete consistently throws quality pitches for strikes showing the proper technique and delivery, mixing pitches to adjust to batter and count (8)

SCORE:

G. Catching

(one choice- the most representative of the athlete's skill level)

- Athlete has difficulty catching most thrown balls (2)
- Athlete is able to catch balls thrown or hit directly to them (3)
- Athlete can catch some off target balls and occasionally those thrown or hit within two to three feet of their starting position (5)
- Athlete frequently catches hit or thrown balls requiring movement from their original fielding position (7)
- Athlete regularly catches balls requiring movement, with exceptional speed to track balls and the ability to leap high to catch rising line drives (8)

SCORE:

Total Score:

(Maximum Score = 56)

Divide TOTAL SCORE by 7 to determine OVERALL RATING

[Round off to nearest tenth, e.g., 4.97 = 5.0 or 3.53 = 3.5; MAXIMUM Rating = 8]

OVERALL RATING:

