Participating in Olathe Special Olympics

1. Sports offered: Sports are offered by Activity Guide. Olathe Parks and Recreation runs three Activity Guides a year. Winter/Spring, Summer and Fall.
   a. Winter/Spring Sports: Skiing/Snowshoeing, basketball, cheerleading, track, aquatics, tennis, cycling, fishing
   c. Fall Sports: Softball, Golf, Soccer, bocce, powerlifting (registration is in fall, but powerlifting runs through May).
   d. Year-round: Fitness & Conditioning but register by sessions (usually 8 weeks).

2. Overview of Sport Format
   a. Each sport has 7-8 practices.
   b. Team sports such as basketball, softball, soccer, volleyball will have a skills assessment that is essential to attend. We review key skills and assess the athletes on a numerical scale set by Special Olympics to place athletes on teams. Other factors on team placement include age and coach ability.
   c. Each sport has a metro tournament against teams in the metro area and a state tournament against teams in Kansas.
   d. Metro tournaments are at no additional cost once registered for the sport.
   e. State tournaments require an additional registration with a fee. Fees range depending on sport and location; $20-$200.
      i. Some state tournaments have multiple sports associated with it; registration is the same whether they do one sport or more.
      ii. State Tournament Locations: Skiing/Snowshoe (i.e. Winter Games)- Weston, MO; Basketball- Topeka ks; Tennis, Track, Cycling, Swimming, Softball, Golf- Wichita, KS; Soccer, bocce, bowling, volleyball- Johnson County; Powerlifting- Lawrence, KS
f. League Games are what we call local area teams getting together to play some additional games. League games are not guaranteed per sport since they are subject to other teams schedules, facilities, and more. They are at no additional cost when offered.

3. Attendance

a. Must attend 80% of practices to attend Metro Tournament

b. Must attend Metro Tournament to attend State Tournament.

c. If an exception would like to be requested, email Special Olympic Supervisor. For reasons that are unavoidable such as illness, funeral, wedding.

d. Athletes do not have to attend any tournaments if they do not wish to. If athlete will not do any tournaments, please notify coaches at skills assessment or first practice.

4. Transportation:

a. Sport registration with transportation includes transportation from home to practices and back but does not include transportation to tournaments.

b. Athletes must reside in Olathe to have transportation to and from practices.

c. Those who have practice with transportation must notify offices if going to miss practice or not need a ride for one night. Failure to notify offices can lead to termination of bus privileges.

d. There is no support staff on bus.

e. Transportation to and from tournaments is available for most sports but meet from a designated location such as City Hall and does require an additional registration.

f. Transportation is not provided to skills assessments.

5. Sport Registration

a. Registrations are taken via Olathe Parks and Recreation

b. Fee must be paid at time of registration. Each sport has a nominal fee that is the fee per season. There is no prorating of fees if starting late, ending early, or for missed practices including those for inclement weather.

c. Scholarships can be applied for via Olathe Parks and Recreation.

d. Current Medical Release/Physical must be on file with Olathe Parks and Recreation before registration.
e. Watch registration deadlines; deadlines are generally one week prior to start of sport.

6. Code of Conduct: Athletes follow the code of conduct set forth by Special Olympics Kansas and can be found on our website at OlatheKS.org/ParksRec/Trailblazers under Athlete Forms.

7. Uniforms & Warm-ups:
   a. Athletes will receive a uniform, shirt and shorts, at no cost. If uniform is lost and or a new size is needed, a new one may be purchased at cost.

   b. Athletes will receive one warm up set at $10 (80% discount). If warm-ups are lost and or new size is needed, a new one may be purchased at cost.

Getting Started with Olathe Special Olympics:

1. Complete the athlete new enrollment kit and Special Olympics Medical Release/Physical. This is found at Olatheks.org/parksrec/trailblazers under “Athlete Forms.”
   Submit forms Attn. Special Olympics via:
   a. Fax- 913-971-8690
   b. Email-eapreston@olatheks.org
   c. Mail- PO Box 768, Olathe KS 66051

2. Register for your sport via Olathe Parks and Recreation- watch deadlines; deadline usually one week prior to sport start.
   a. Call 913-971-8563
   b. Online: Olatheks.org/parksrec
   c. Walk-in: Olathe Community Center at 1205 E Kansas City Rd.