



NOVEMBER 2017
NEWSLETTER



**Special
Olympics**
Ontario

 **School** Programs



Happy Fall!

I hope that everyone has enjoyed a great start to the school year thus far; we certainly have here at Special Olympics Ontario!

After some fantastic Fall weather (and even postponing an event due to heat – something we never thought we'd have to do in the fall!) we are eager to launch into our winter season of sports and events!

In our elementary school programs, we have successfully hosted our first event of the season with our new triple intake model and are looking forward to a busy November perfecting the new system! In secondary schools we have just about finished up all soccer qualifiers for the year and are excited for the basketball season to start between now and the holidays.

As a staff team, we have set a priority to put in a large amount of effort in increasing and strongly maintaining our relationships with school boards across Ontario. We have begun meeting with boards in all areas of the province to foster a more formal relationship and partnership in hopes to help spread the word to schools about our programming and opportunities, work side by side with existing school board-led events, and offer our staff for professional development, coaching, and parent information nights. Should you have any interest in chatting further about these initiatives or assisting us in introductions within your school or board please let us know!

We have also been working hard to offer more hosting opportunities and resources to secondary school leadership classes. These will be curriculum supporting guidelines so classes can assist in planning and executing an event alongside SOO as part of their coursework. We have been working with a handful of schools across Ontario to pilot these in second semester this school year to be tweaked and ready to go for September 2018!

Our School Programs newsletters will be distributed four times per school year in order to provide all educators with a means of staying current with our new and exciting initiatives throughout the year. Please take the time to read through the information on the following pages as we have a number of important announcements.

Finally, don't forget to check out our calendar of events to ensure you do not miss an event near you! Should you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact us. Your feedback and support is what drives the growth and development of all of our programs!

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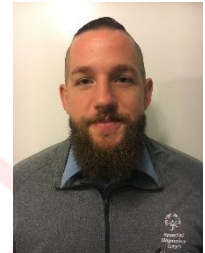
Or visit our website at:
<http://specialolympicsontario.com/schools>

News You Can Use – November

Our school programs staff team is growing! We are happy to introduce our two newest school programs staff members to the team! Watch for Brock and Chris to be on the road at our upcoming elementary and secondary events this Fall! Please join me in welcoming our new staff members to the Special Olympics Ontario organization.

Brock Robinson – School Event Coordinator

Brock Robinson comes to the Special Olympics Ontario organization after spending the last nine and a half years in the soccer industry with the Canadian Soccer League, the Newmarket Soccer Club and Ajax FC. During his time with the Newmarket Soccer Club, he was the staff member in charge of running the Heart of York Summer Classic which is one of the biggest soccer tournaments in the province, hosting up to 230 teams.



Brock also has experience with large scale events, taking on volunteer roles during the 2016 Special Olympics Ontario Provincial School Championships in Oshawa, the 2015 Pan Am Games Baseball Competitions in Ajax and annually at the Canada's Sports Hall of Fame Induction ceremonies.

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Chris Mehak – School Event Coordinator

Chris is a former Canadian National Team athlete who competed internationally for many years in the sport of Canoe/Kayak. In 2015, Chris completed his degree from the University of Toronto in Physical Education and Health.

Chris has a keen interest in sport and recreation. This past summer he was head of the waterski program at Camp Oochigeas, where he was in charge of developing adaptive programming for campers with physical and intellectual considerations. As a volunteer, Chris has been involved in the PaddleALL program at the Balmy Beach Canoe Club for athletes in the Parasport program, as well as at SickKids in the pediatric oncology unit.

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2017 Annual Sport Awards

Congratulations to our 2017 SOO School Sport Award winners, who accepted their awards at our AGM in October!



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Educator Resources



Our educator resources are available for all levels of education and are **free** of charge to anyone registered with SOO! Additional to our available resource booklets mentioned below available in print, we will be expanding our online resources throughout the school year to include training videos, expansion material and information to assist with ability rankings for School Championships.

Our **free** in-class resources for teachers are to use when facilitating physical education programs. We offer Active Start, FUNDamentals, and Youth Multi-Sport facilitation manuals to educators. These manuals provide 9 or 12-week lesson plans for implementing age- and ability-appropriate programming for their students.



Active Start

Active Start

Suggested for students aged 2-6 years

Highlights: focuses on developing fundamental movement skills and physical literacy while also introducing Special Olympics.

FUNDamentals

Suggested for students aged 7-10 years

Highlights: begins the process of applying the basic skills introduced in Active Start to sport-specific settings

FUNDamentals

Multi-Sport

Youth Multi-Sport

Suggested for students aged 11-21

Highlights: focuses on introducing basketball, track and field, bocce, and soccer. This includes rules, strategy, nutrition, and stretching. This guide will prepare students for participation in our School Championships program.



Coming this year: electronic expansion packages for floor hockey, badminton, and softball!



Hosting Packages and Guidelines – Now Available!

Interested in hosting an event at your school? Our hosting packages offer in depth and step-by-step instructions on assisting SOO in hosting a School Championships Qualifier or Elementary Sports Festival! A great opportunity to get your leadership class, varsity team, generic student body, and entire school involved!

Schools have a multitude of options towards their involvement in hosting from simply donating your gym or field space for the day, to providing volunteers, to guiding your volunteers in assisting in the planning and execution of the day.

Coming soon: curriculum supported guidelines for leadership classes interested in planning and hosting an event as a component of their coursework.

Please contact us at schools@specialolympicsontario.com for all inquiries!

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Elementary School Programs

What a start to the year! Special Olympics Ontario has successfully launched the new and improved Sports Festival! With a hugely successful kick-off event in Guelph, we continue our tour around the province as we finish off 2017 in Ottawa, Oakville, Owen Sound, Thunder Bay, Vaughan, Barrie, Niagara, North York, Stouffville, and Aurora.



Make sure you contact Special Olympics Ontario about an upcoming Sports Festival in your community or if you would like to bring the Sports Festival to your community!



We will be announcing the 2018 schedule shortly after we return from the holidays, but make sure you are checking our website for an updated schedule!

The Sports Festival is a great way to prepare your students for their high school sports career as a Special Olympics athlete! The Youth Multi-Sport program allows your more competitive athletes a chance to learn about how to play structured sport! Remember that we have FREE resources available for teachers that will give you the tools to

prepare your students for their Sports Festival experience.

The Active Start, FUNdamentals, and Youth Multi-Sport programs all work together to make sure that elementary school athletes have a meaningful experience! The Sports Festival introduces young athletes to the Special Olympics movement and ensures that they have fun in the process!

In the past, we have made our physical literacy resources available to teachers and registration for the Sports Festival free. Starting this year, registration for a Sports Festival will cost **\$5-per-student**.

Should you have any questions about our youth resources or one of our Sports Festivals please do not hesitate to ask!



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Secondary School Programs

School Championships 2017/2018 Season

School Championships Qualifiers got off to an early and exciting start this year! Although we caught many teams off-guard with the start date, we have seen tremendous turn out and response to qualifiers. The soccer season has officially come to a close, as we now turn our attention to basketball. There will be 21 basketball qualifiers held across the province- so be sure to find the one closest to you! Information and registration for upcoming events can be found on our website: www.specialolympicsontario.com/schools

For the remainder of the year we have the following sports available:

- **Basketball**- 21 qualifiers (November and December)
- **Bocce**- 18 qualifiers (February and March)
- **Floor Hockey**- 11 qualifiers (April)
- **Virtual Track and Field**- Times submitted online (Due by April 1,2018)
- **Unified divisions** will be an option at all regional qualifiers (more information on following page)
- Schools may register up to **3 teams per division per qualifier** (up 3 traditional teams, 3 Unified teams)



Special Olympics
Ontario

School Championships
Qualifiers



Virtual Track & Field – How it works

In lieu of physical, in-person qualifiers this year hosted by SOO, we will be offering the opportunity for all schools to submit results for our Virtual Track & Field program. Please find the attached documents to learn more about the program and how to submit results.

Schools have a number of options to participate:

1. Submit results from a track meet hosted May 2017 or later
2. Record results from your students at your own school during physical education, recess, etc.
3. Invite other local schools to host a 'mini-meet' and record results from all participants

Contact schools@specialolympicsontario.com for all information. All results must be submitted by **April 1, 2018**.



Special Olympics
Ontario

School Competitions

School Competitions

School Championships Qualifiers are rotated throughout the province on a yearly basis. Because of the increased demand for all 5 sports in your schools area, we are happy to promote School Competitions. School Competitions have taken off around the province, where a collective of schools from the community have gotten together to host the sports that are not offered as a qualifier in that particular year. Special Olympics Ontario is very happy to assist in the development of a competition program, and have created a project for PLF 4M that could also assist. Please contact us if you are interested in support.



Mark your calendars!

This season's School Championships will be held **May 29-31, 2018 in Peterborough!**

The Championships will feature over 800 athletes, 200 coaches, and 300 volunteers from across Ontario, Canada and the United States! Competition will be in both traditional and Unified sport in all 5 sports. More information will be released on our website throughout the season!

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School Championships Unified Sport

What is Unified Sport?

Unified sport teams are comprised of both student-athletes with an intellectual disability and their mainstream peers (Unified Partners). The main goal of Unified sport is to create meaningful competition between all athletes in a Unified division (both with and without special needs), which means all athletes should be at a similar ability level. As with our School Championships traditional sports, all Unified teams will be divisioned prior to play to ensure a quality and safe competition experience for all.



Based on feedback from our Unified last season, we are very excited to see the impact and growth through this season at all regional qualifiers in all 5 sports!

As all sports will function differently in terms of rules and quota of athletes and Unified partners per team, please consult our website for more information, coaching tips, and sport rules. An overall breakdown of each sport is included below:



Unified Track & Field

- SO Athletes and Unified Partners will compete as a team
- Schools may enter as many athletes as they wish, to a maximum 1:1 athlete to partner ratio
- Events offered will be the same as traditional School Championships Track & Field (50m will be open to SO athletes only)
- Educators are required to submit qualifying times for all athletes and partners
- Heats will be determined by gender, age, and qualifying times, therefore athletes and partners will race in same heats
- Qualification for School Championships will be based on overall placement for all athletes and partners

Unified Basketball

- Schools may enter 3 teams maximum
- Teams may have 4 SO athletes and 2 Unified partners max.
- Only 1 Unified partner can be on the court at any time
- Teams will be forced to switch lines every 2 minutes

Unified Bocce

- Schools may enter 3 teams maximum
- Teams may have 2 SO athletes and 2 Unified partners max.

Unified Soccer

- Schools may enter 3 teams maximum
- Teams may have 6 SO athletes and 4 Unified partners max.
- Only 2 Unified partners can be on the field at any time
- Teams will be forced to switch lines every 5 minutes

Unified Floor Hockey

- Schools may enter 3 teams maximum
- Teams may have 8 SO athletes and 4 Unified partners max.
- Only 2 Unified partners can be on the court at any time
- Teams will be forced to switch lines every 3 minutes

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Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar!

November 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Secondary School Events are marked in RED - All Elementary School Events are marked in BLACK 			1	2	3 Ottawa Sports Festival	4
5	6	7 Kingston - Basketball School Championships London Sports Festival	8 Casselman - Basketball School Championships	9 Oakville Sports Festival	10 Ottawa - Basketball School Championships Oakville - Basketball School Championships	11
12	13	14 Sudbury - Basketball School Championships Owen Sound Sports Festival	15 Timmins & Peterborough - Basketball School Championships Thunder Bay Sports Festival	16	17 Guelph - Basketball School Championships North Bay - Basketball School Championships Vaughan Sports Festival	18
19	20	21 Belleville - Basketball School Championships Barrie Sports Festival	22 Renfrew - Basketball School Championships	23 Muskoka - Basketball School Championships Niagara Sports Festival	24 Barrie - Basketball School Championships	25
26	27 Sarnia - Basketball School Championships	28 Stratford - Basketball School Championships Tentative Date	29	30 Niagara - Basketball School Championships Toronto Sports Festival		

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar!

December 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Secondary School Events are marked in RED - All Elementary School Events are marked in BLACK 					1	2
3	4	5 York - Basketball School Championships <i>Tentative Date</i>	6 Durham - Basketball School Championships	7 Toronto - Basketball School Championships Stouffville Sports Festival	8 Aurora Sports Festival	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar!

January 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Peterborough - Soccer School Championships	26	27
28	29	30	31	Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Secondary School Events are marked in RED - All Elementary School Events are marked in BLACK 		

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar!

February 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Secondary School Events are marked in RED - All Elementary School Events are marked in BLACK 				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Cornwall Sports Festival Tentative Date	8 Kingston Sports Festival Tentative Date	9	10
11	12 Toronto - Bocce School Championships Tentative Date	13 Durham - Bocce School Championships	14	15 Durham Sports Festival Tentative Date	16 York - Bocce School Championships Tentative Date	17
18	19	20	21 Waterloo - Bocce School Championships	22 Thunder Bay - Bocce School Championships London - Bocce School Championships	23 Windsor - Bocce School Championships	24
25	26	27 Brampton - Bocce School Championships Tentative Date	28			