

**Special  
Olympics**  
New York



# ***LONG ISLAND FALL CLASSIC***

2024 Guide



Saturday, September 21

Cantiague Park

480 W John St

Hicksville, NY 11801

## How to Use

Welcome to the Long Island Fall Classic 2024 Coach Guide!

This guide contains information about event offerings, athlete paperwork, coach certifications, and other important competition details that will help make your Fall Classic experience the best it can be.

Please reference the Table of Contents on pages 3 and 4, and feel free to contact any Special Olympics New York staff member using the table on page 16 if you have any additional questions.

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## What is the Long Island Fall Classic?

The Long Island Fall Classic is Long Island's largest Special Olympics competition offered in the fall.

Over 300 athletes ages 8 and up compete as part of training clubs (teams) in sports like bocce, cross country running, golf, soccer, and softball.

Training clubs can be made up of athletes from your school or your community.

Each training club will participate in an official Special Olympics Opening Ceremonies to kick off Fall Classic, followed by a day of competition and medal ceremonies for each sport.

## What sports are offered at Fall Classic?

Training clubs may register for any of the below sports.



Bocce  
(Traditional,  
Unified)



Cross Country  
Running



Golf  
(Alternate Shot,  
Individual, Skills)



Soccer  
(Traditional Team,  
Unified Team)



Softball  
(Team)

## How do I register my training club for Fall Classic?

Visit our [Fall Classic competition website](#) to access the competition registration form for the specific sport you wish to compete in. The competition registration form should be sent to the Downstate Competition Team (see page 16).

However, there is more to Fall Classic than just registering — please review this guide to learn more about how Special Olympics can assist your program with coach certifications, equipment, transportation, and more.

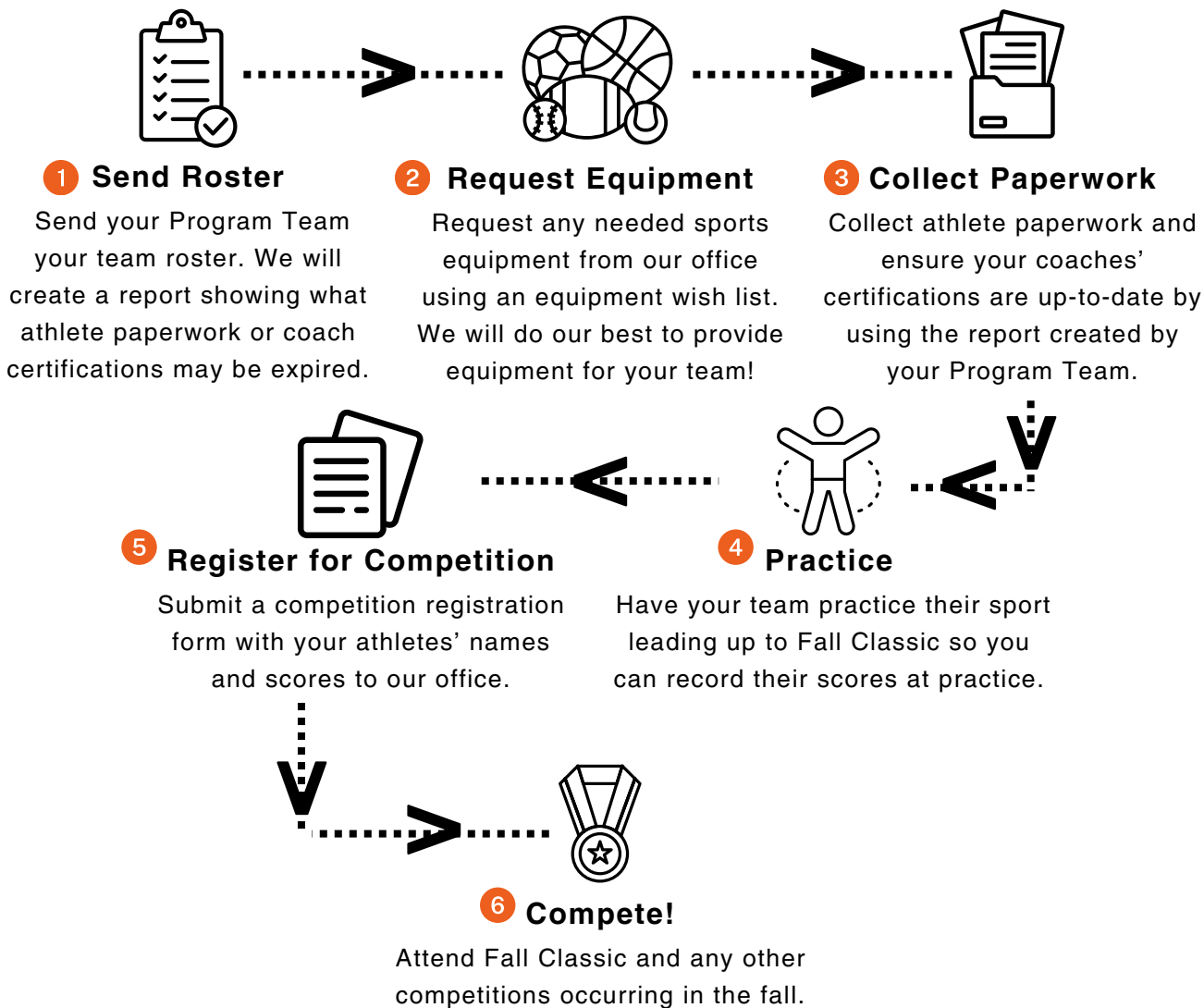
# My school or group has never competed at Fall Classic before. What do we need to do?

Please see the diagram below. If you have any questions about this process, your Program Team (see page 16) is more than happy to assist!



# My school or group has competed at Fall Classic in the past. What do we need to do for this year?

Please see the diagram below. If you have any questions about this process, your Program Team (see page 16) is more than happy to assist!



## Venue Information

All training clubs, regardless of sport, will compete at Cantiague Park. A map with the location of all individual sports will be distributed to registered teams in September 2024.



## Projected Schedule of Events

Fall Classic will take place on Saturday, September 21, 2024. A schedule of events is listed below. Please note this schedule is subject to change.

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM: Coach Check-In

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Pairing Games

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM: Healthy Athletes screenings available

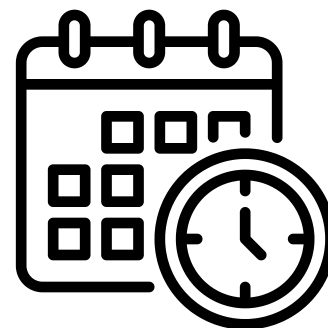
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM: Parade Staging

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM: Opening Ceremonies

11:00 AM: Competition Begins

11:00 AM: Healthy Athletes reopens

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Competition ends



## When will we receive the schedule of events for specific sports?

Training clubs will receive their schedules for pairing games, official games, and other sport-specific events from Sport Directors on the day of the event.


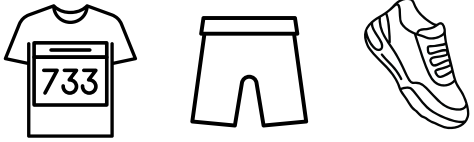
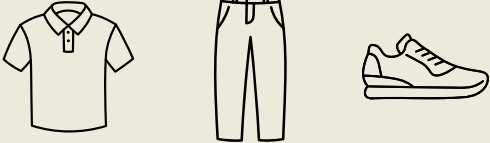




## Who will my athletes compete against?

All athletes will be divisioned based upon entry times, distances, or scores listed on their team's competition registration form to ensure they compete against athletes or teams of similar ability. Pairing games may also be used as a determining factor as to what the appropriate division will be for a team.

Please put the correct times, distances, and scores on the competition registration form. The Games Management Team, in conjunction with sport officials, have the right to disqualify athletes if their final times, distances, or scores on competition day are significantly greater than their entry times, distances, or scores, in accordance with [Special Olympics Sports Rules Article 1](#).

## What should athletes wear to compete?

Sport	Attire	Diagram
Bocce	Polo shirts, pants/shorts, sneakers	
Cross Country	Shirts with visible bib numbers, pants/shorts, sneakers	
Golf	Polo shirts, khaki pants/shorts, sneakers	
Soccer	Numbered shirts, pants/shorts, shin pads, cleats (no metal studs)	
Softball*	Numbered jerseys, sliding pants, rubber cleats (no metal studs)	

\*Please Note: Additional protective gear is required for certain softball positions. Please review the [Official Special Olympics Softball Rules](#) or reach out to your Program Team for clarification.

## What paperwork do athletes need to compete?

All athletes must have current athlete paperwork on file with the office to compete at this competition. All athlete paperwork should be submitted to your Program Team (see page 16).

This paperwork includes:

1. Athlete Registration Form
2. Athlete Release Form
3. Athlete Medical Form\*
4. Communicable Disease Waiver

\*Please note that the Athlete Medical Form must be signed a licensed medical professional. The athlete does not need a new physical (the doctor can use the information from the most recent well visit), but it does have to be on our paperwork with the date of the exam.

## When does athlete paperwork expire?

The Athlete Release Form expires 3 years after the date of signature or on the athlete's 18th birthday.

The Athlete Medical Form expires 3 years after the date of the exam.

Otherwise, **athlete paperwork does not expire**. Other forms do not need to be re-submitted every year unless the athlete's personal information has changed.

## How many coaches do I need on my team?

There is no maximum number of coaches a team can have. For the sports offered at this event, the ratio of coaches to athletes is 1:4.

Anyone who is coaching or volunteering with your team must be certified as a Sport Assistant or higher (see diagram below).

At least one person per team must be certified as a Level II Coach and is considered the head coach of the team. There is no limit to the number of Level II coaches on a team.

## What certifications do coaches need?



## How do I obtain these coach certifications?

All Sport Assistant and Level I Coach certifications can be obtained entirely online through our Coach Education Portal. Your Program Team (see page 16) can provide you with the appropriate link.

The Level II Sports-Specific Course varies. Please contact your Program Team for details.

## When do coach certifications expire?

The Background Check, Protective Behaviors Training, Concussion Course, and Sports-Specific Course expire 3 years after the date on which they were completed.

All other courses do not expire.

## How do I know what athletes or coaches on my team need new paperwork or certifications?

Your Program Team (see page 16) can create a report called an **Errors and Exceptions** that shows exactly which athletes and coaches have expired paperwork and/or certifications.

To receive an Errors and Exceptions for your team, please submit a roster of all your athletes and coaches to your Program Team. We will use that roster to create an Errors and Exceptions, which we will send to you that describes exactly who needs updated paperwork or renewed certifications.

The earlier in the season you can send us your roster, the sooner you will receive an Errors and Exceptions.

## Can I get equipment for my team from Special Olympics New York?

Yes! Pending our budget, we can provide equipment to teams that need it for training purposes. To request equipment, please contact your Program Team (see page 16).

## Does Special Olympics New York provide transportation to this competition?

Yes! Pending our budget, we can provide transportation to athletes and coaches via a bus. We cannot provide transportation to parents or siblings of athletes or other non-certified school or agency staff.

If you would like to request transportation to this competition, please complete a transportation request form, which can be found on the [competition website](#), and submit to the Downstate Competition Team (see page 16).

## Will Healthy Athletes be offered at this competition?

Yes! Healthy Athletes, or free health screenings provided by volunteer medical professionals and students to athletes, will be offered at this event. The Healthy Athletes program has discovered undetected health problems, alleviated pain, and provided health services that otherwise would not be available to our athletes.

Healthy Athletes is not only a program for athletes but, through training and hands-on experience at screenings, it is a program for healthcare students and professionals to increase knowledge of best practices in caring for and communicating with people with intellectual disabilities.



## **Are there other Special Olympics competitions besides Fall Classic to compete in?**

Yes! There are competitions throughout the year in a variety of sports.

All unexpired athlete paperwork applies to other competitions besides Fall Classic. The only new form needed for a regional or super-regional competition is a registration form for that specific competition.

To view our calendar of events, please visit [our website](#).

## **Can my company or organization support Fall Classic and/or Special Olympics New York?**

Yes! We offer various opportunities to sponsor or become vendors at our signature events, including Fall Classic. We anticipate approximately 300 athletes and 100 coaches in attendance, which cannot happen without the support of our Long Island community. We hope to see you there!

For more information on sponsorship, donations, or how to become a vendor, please contact the Long Island Development Team (see page 16).

## Important Dates

Please see the list below of important dates to keep in mind throughout the season. Please note that these dates are subject to change.

**Monday, June 17**  
Training season officially opens

**Friday, August 30**  
Competition Registration Forms due date

**Saturday, September 21**  
Competition date

## Long Island Staff Contact Information

If you have a question that is not listed in this guide or if you need obtain a form, link, etc. from a Long Island staff member, please use the below table:

I need more information on...	Who should I contact?	Staff Emails
Athlete paperwork	Long Island Program Team	Jesse Lodispoto Director of Program jlodispoto@nyso.org  Emily Mohlin Associate Director of Program emohlin@nyso.org
Coach certifications		
Equipment requests		
Transportation	Downstate Competition Team	David Durandisse Director of Competition ddurandisse@nyso.org  Emmanuel Lindsay Associate Director of Competition elindsay@nyso.org
Sport rules		
Competition registration		
Sponsoring Fall Classic	Long Island Development Team	Alexis Dawson Director of Development adawson@nyso.org  Rebecca Hoffmann Director of Development rhoffmann@nyso.org

**Long Island Office Address**  
 560 Broadhollow Road, Suite 106  
 Melville, New York 11747