

**Special
Olympics**
New York



NEW YORK CITY REGION PETER AQUILONE WINTER CLASSIC

2024 Guide



Saturday, December 7, 2024

Jacob Javits Center

655 West 34th St

New York, NY 10001

How to Use

Welcome to the New York City Region Peter Aquilone Winter Classic 2024 Guide!

This guide contains information about event offerings, athlete paperwork, coach certifications, and other important competition details that will help make your Winter 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 25 and 26 if you have any additional questions.

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What is the Peter Aquilone Winter Classic?

The New York City Region Peter Aquilone Winter Classic is New York City's largest Special Olympics event of the year.

Hundreds of athletes ages 8 and up compete as part of training clubs (teams) in floorball. 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 the Winter Classic, followed by a day of competition and medal ceremonies for each sport.

This event offers Traditional Floorball, Unified Floorball, and an Individual Skills Competition. In addition to the competition, we will also be offering Young Athletes and Healthy Athletes.

What sports are offered at the Winter Classic?

Training clubs may register for any of the below sports.



Floorball Team
Floorball Skills



Unified Floorball Team



Young Athletes

What is Young Athletes?

Young Athletes is an early childhood play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities, ages 2 to 7 years old. Young Athletes introduces basic sport skills, like running, kicking and throwing. Young Athletes provides children of all abilities the same opportunities to advance in core developmental milestones. Children learn how to play with others and develop important skills for learning. Children also learn to share, take turns and follow directions.



What is Healthy Athletes?

Special Olympics International has a program called Healthy Athletes that offers free medical screenings to all athletes. The goal of Healthy Athletes is to provide equitable healthcare and health services to individuals with disabilities. Special Olympics aims to ensure that the inclusion of people with ID becomes common practice in mainstream health systems.

Here are some quick facts about Healthy Athletes according to Special Olympics International:

1. People with intellectual disabilities are frequently locked out of most aspects of health systems and face significant **health disparities**.
2. People with intellectual disabilities (ID) remain one of the most **medically under-served** groups in the world.
3. Over 80% of healthcare providers are **NOT professionally trained** to help people with ID.



What health screenings are offered?

For this competition, we will offer 5 Healthy Athlete disciplines. We will have Fit Feet, FUNfitness, Healthy Hearing, Special Smiles, and Strong Minds. Read below for more information on each discipline.

Fit Feet

Fit Feet is a podiatric screening for athletes that focuses on ankle & foot health, lower extremity biomechanics, as well as footwear fit and condition. Many athletes are wearing the wrong size or type of shoes while competing, which can contribute to or worsen the presence of foot and ankle pain and dysfunction. Together, these issues can negatively impact an athletes' navigation of everyday life and sport performance. Using the results of the screening, volunteers provide athletes, coaches, families, and caregivers education on proper foot care and health to maximize the athlete's ability to step lively onto the playing field of everyday life.



FUNfitness

FUNfitness is a physiotherapy (physical therapy) screening that examines the flexibility, strength, balance, and aerobic fitness of athletes. Dysfunction in any of these areas can result in pain, discomfort, and sub-optimal activity performance in sports and everyday life. During these screenings, health professionals identify areas of concern to offer education and expert guidance on suggested follow-up care including exercise recommendations, sport-specific training tips, and when appropriate, referral recommendations.



Healthy Hearing

Healthy Hearing provides comprehensive hearing screenings, hearing aid maintenance and minor repairs, hearing aid fittings, and audiologic services, such as earwax removal. The goals of Healthy Hearing screening are to detect possible ear and hearing problems, recommend medical and audiologic follow-up, and to promote the necessity of regular ear and hearing screenings for athletes.



Special Smiles

Special Smiles provides comprehensive oral health care information, including free dental screenings and instructions on correct brushing and flossing techniques to athletes. Volunteer dental health professionals and students perform oral health screenings, oral hygiene instruction, mouthguard adaptation, and apply fluoride varnish for athletes participating in the screening. Special Smiles creates awareness and improves access to dental care for athletes.



Strong Minds

Strong Minds is an interactive learning activity focused on developing adaptive coping skills. Competition provides a natural opportunity to develop active strategies for maintaining emotional wellness under stress, such as thinking positive thoughts, releasing stress, and connecting with others.



What can my athletes do at the Winter Classic when they are not competing?

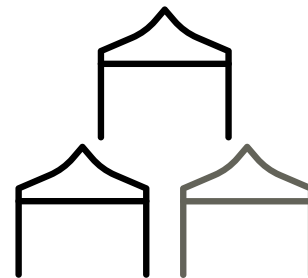
The Winter Classic is more than just a sports competition. There are lots of fun activities for athletes, coaches, and families to enjoy while they or their children are waiting to compete or after they have finished their event(s) for the day!

All of the below will be offered on-site at the Jacob Javits Center.



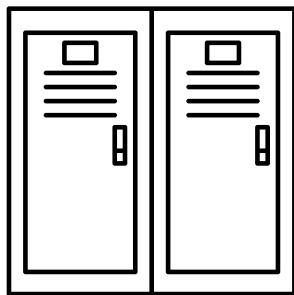
Healthy Athletes Screenings

Athletes can receive free health screenings from volunteer medical professionals and medical students!



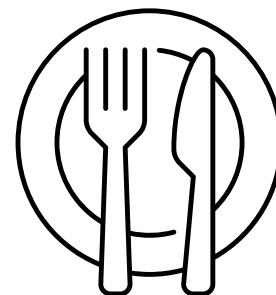
Olympic Village

Visit our Olympic Village area where event attendees can receive merchandise and enjoy activities from local businesses.



Team Area

Athletes and coaches can leave their belongings in team specific locker rooms.



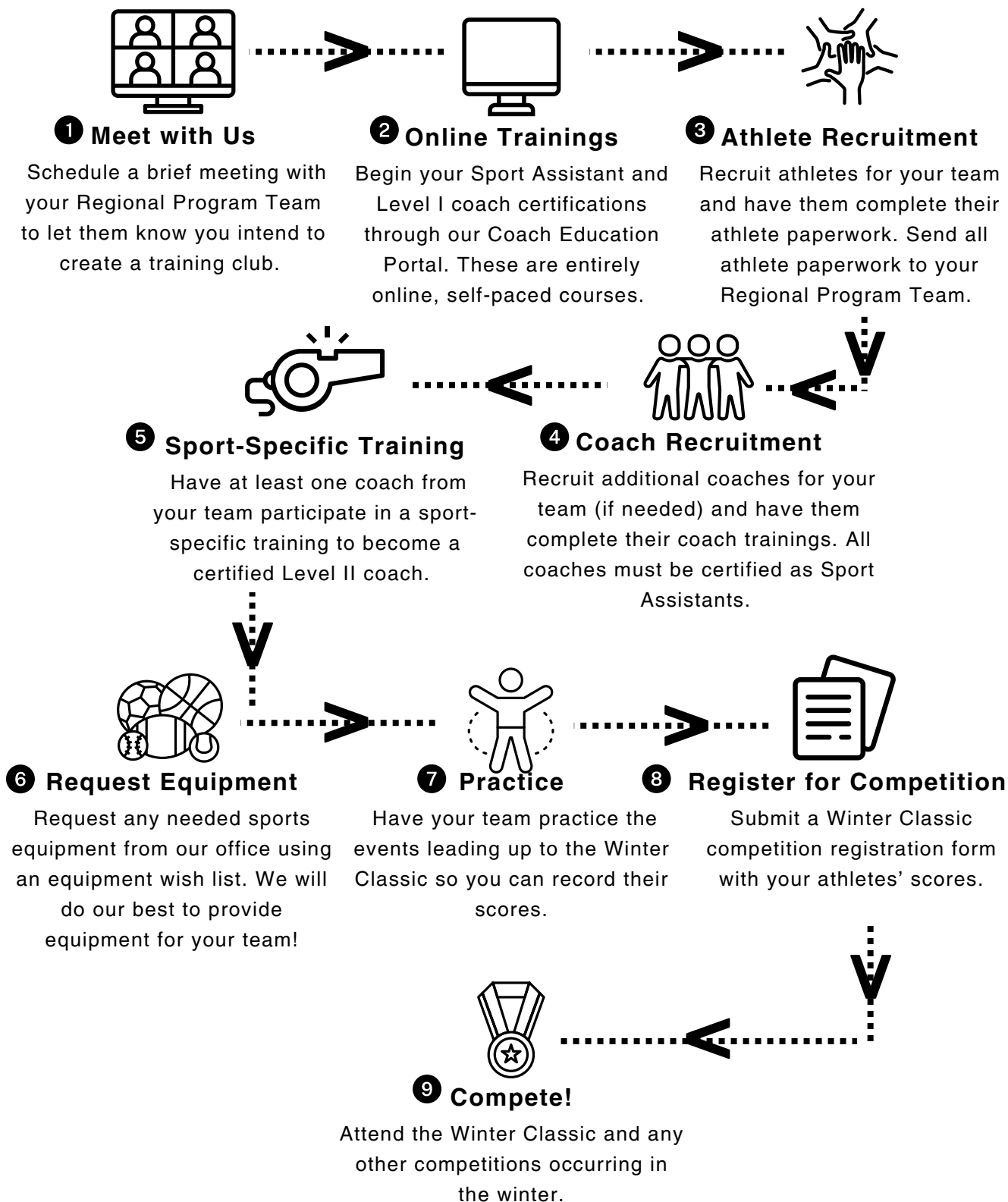
Get Free Lunch

(Athletes and Coaches Only)

Athletes and coaches can visit the lunch area to receive free lunch from Jersey Mike's.

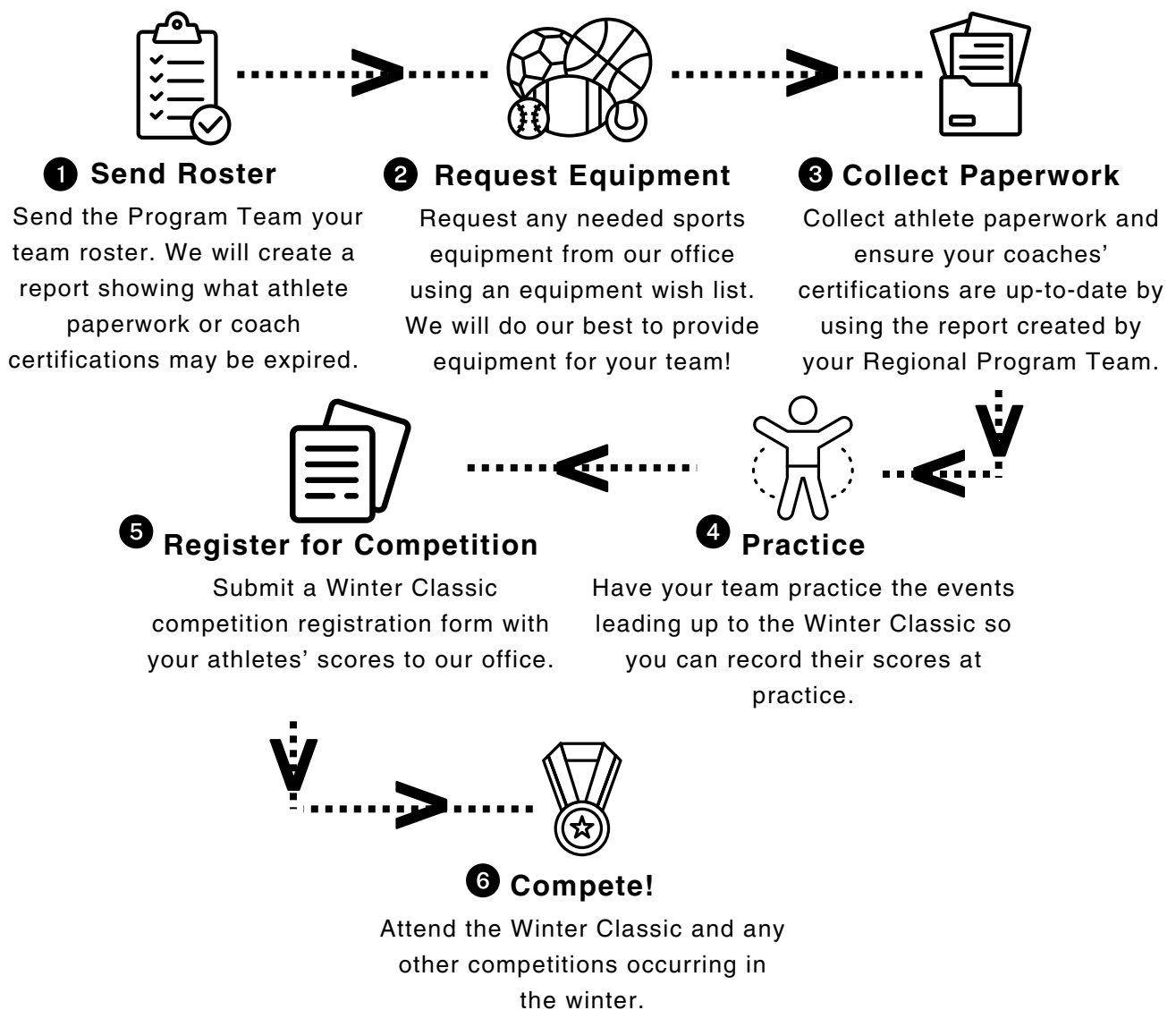
My school or group has never competed at the Winter Classic before. What do we need to do?

Please see the diagram below. If you have any questions about this process, your Regional Program Team (see page 25) is more than happy to assist!



My school or group has competed at the Winter 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 Regional Program Team (see page 25) is more than happy to assist!



How do I register my training club for the Winter Classic?

Visit our [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 25).

However, there is more to it 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.



How do I fill out a competition registration form?

A competition registration form is what you use to register your training club (team) for the Winter Classic. This form helps our office understand your athletes' abilities so we can place them in appropriate divisions.



1. Locate Your Form

- Visit the [2024 Winter Classic website](#).
- Click the link to open the PDF of your sport's registration form



2. Fill Out Athlete Information

- For each athlete, enter their **full name**, **date of birth**, and **gender**.
- If an athlete does not identify with a gender, you may leave the gender box unmarked.



3. Register Athletes for Events

- Enter the **event code** with the **time**, **distance**, **score**, etc., in the designated box for each athlete.
- **Important:** Do not round scores or times to the nearest whole number; use the nearest tenth or hundredth of a unit.



4. Add Coaches/Volunteers

- Enter the names of each coach/volunteer attending.
- Our office will verify their certifications.



5. Include Additional Pages if Needed

- If you can't fit all the names on one page, add additional pages for the remaining athletes/coaches.



6. Submit Your Form!

- Email the completed competition registration form to the Downstate Competition Team (see page 25).

How do I fill out a competition registration form?

In the below example:

- The team is complete with 8 athletes.
- There are 2 alternates listed.

Peter Aquilone Winter Classic

Team Athletes Form

TEAM NAME: Example Team

Region: NYC

Instructions:

- 1) Fill out last name, first name, date of birth, and gender of all athletes that are being registered.
- 2) Fill out date of birth.
- 3) Fill out gender, however if you identify as non-binary, please leave blank.
- 4) The maximum player roster size is 12, minimum 8.

ACTIVE ATHLETES			Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)	GENDER	
	Last Name	First Name		M	F
1	Lindsay	Emmanuel	1/1/2000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Nixon	Lashawn	1/2/2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Toure	Vance	1/3/2000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Quattara	Fatoumata	1/4/2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Flannery	Claire	1/5/2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Boehnke	Tatum	1/6/2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Brenner	Zachary	1/7/2000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Coyle	Lindsey	1/8/2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9					
10					
11					
12					
ALTERNATES			Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)	GENDER	
	Last Name	First Name		M	F
1	Desmond	Andrew	1/9/2000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Dawson	Alexis	1/10/2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					



How do I fill out a competition registration form?

In the below example:

- There are 3 coaches who are fully certified. Team sports must have at least 3 coaches and skills must abide by the 1 coach to 4 athletes ratio.
- The alternate coaches must get certified before they are able to coach at this event.

Peter Aquilone Winter Classic

Team Coaches Form

Team Name:	Example Team
-------------------	--------------

Region:	NYC
----------------	-----

Instructions:
1. All coaches must be certified.
2. All volunteers for team must be registered. This includes coaches, agency support staff, one-on-ones, etc.
3. Alternate coaches are to replace coaches who are unable to attend games. Please list ample alternates. If necessary, use additional sheets.

Active Coaches		Date of Birth (Month/Date/Year)	Gender		Certification Current?	
Last Name	First Name		M	F	Yes	No
Durandisse	David	1/11/2000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	
Mohlin	Emily	1/12/2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	x	
Lodispoto	Jesse	1/13/2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Alternate Coaches		Date of Birth (Month/Date/Year)	Gender		Certification Current?	
Last Name	First Name		M	F	Yes	No
Colonna	Diane	1/14/2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		x
Hoffmann	Rebecca	1/15/2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		x
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		



Agency Staff, One-On-Ones, Etc.		Date of Birth (Month/Date/Year)	Gender		Certification Current?	
Last Name	First Name		M	F	Yes	No
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Venue Information

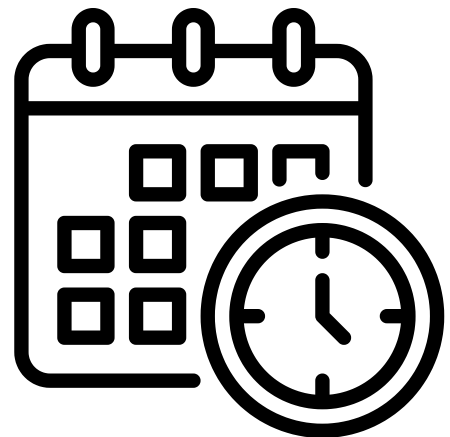
All athletes will be competing at the Jacob K. Javits Center.

Jacob K. Javits Center
655 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001

Projected Schedule of Events

The Winter Classic will take place on Saturday, December 7, 2024. Please note this schedule is subject to change.

- 8:30 AM: Check In (Coach & Volunteer)
- 9:30 AM: Pairing Games
- 9:30 AM-10:30: Healthy Athletes
 - Open to all skills athletes, Young Athletes, and any athlete not playing in pairing games
- 10:30 AM: Parade Staging
- 11:00 AM: Opening Ceremonies
- 11:30 AM: Competition
- 11:30 AM: Healthy Athletes Reopens & Young Athletes Begins
- 11:30 AM-1:00 PM: Skills Preliminaries
- 12:00 PM-1:00 PM: Lunch for Athletes and Coaches ONLY
- 1:00 PM: Lunch for Volunteers, Sport Directors, and Officials
- 1:30 PM-3:00 PM: Skills Finals
- 4:00 PM: Competition Ends



When will we receive the schedule of events?

We must have all athletes properly divisioned to release the schedule, and divisioning can only occur after competition registration has closed.

Training clubs competing in all other sports will receive the schedule 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 of similar ability.

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?

All field players shall wear uniforms consisting of jerseys, shorts and knee socks. All field players in a team shall wear the exact same uniform. A team's uniform may have any color combination. If the referees consider that the teams cannot be distinguished by their uniforms, the visiting team is obliged to change. The socks shall be pulled up to the knees, mutually uniform, and, if decided by the administrating authority, distinguishable between the teams.

All goalkeepers shall be dressed in jerseys and long trousers.

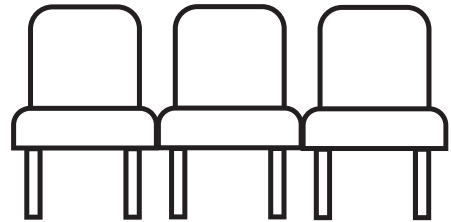
Athletes are not permitted to wear jeans or khakis.



What is “staging” and how does it work for floorball skills?

Staging is the process by which your athletes are put into divisions for their respective events during the competition.

All coaches should report to the staging area **on time** when the athletes’ names are called. **Your athlete may not be permitted to compete if they do not arrive on time at the staging area.**



During your event time, you will hear your athletes’ names called out on a microphone or megaphone by the staging leader. Your athlete will be assigned a skills station and taken by a volunteer to their specific station to start the event.

Why can’t my athlete compete in a different division?

Athletes’ divisions are not random — they have been designed deliberately by Special Olympics New York to guarantee that athletes compete against those of similar age, gender, and/or ability and to ensure an authentic competitive experience for all.

Should an athlete compete with a different group than what they were originally divided in, a competitive advantage or disadvantage would be placed on them, which would be unfair to themselves or to others while competing.

Therefore, if an athlete is not present when their name is called by the staging leader and they miss their event, they may not be permitted to compete.

What paperwork do athletes need to compete?

All athletes must have current athlete paperwork on file with the office to compete at the Winter Classic. All athlete paperwork should be submitted to your Regional Program Team (see page 25).

This paperwork includes:

1. Athlete Registration Form
2. Athlete Release Form
3. Athlete Health History*
4. Communicable Disease Waiver

*Please note that at the time of writing, we no longer require the doctor's signature on the Athlete Medical. We now only require the Health History pages. These can be signed by either the athlete or a parent/guardian. Paperwork guidelines are subject to change as we are waiting for new guidelines from Special Olympics International and Special Olympics NY Headquarters.

When does athlete paperwork expire?

At the time of writing, athlete paperwork no longer expires. As long as all forms listed above are signed by a parent or guardian and on file with the Special Olympics New York office, the athlete is eligible to train and compete.

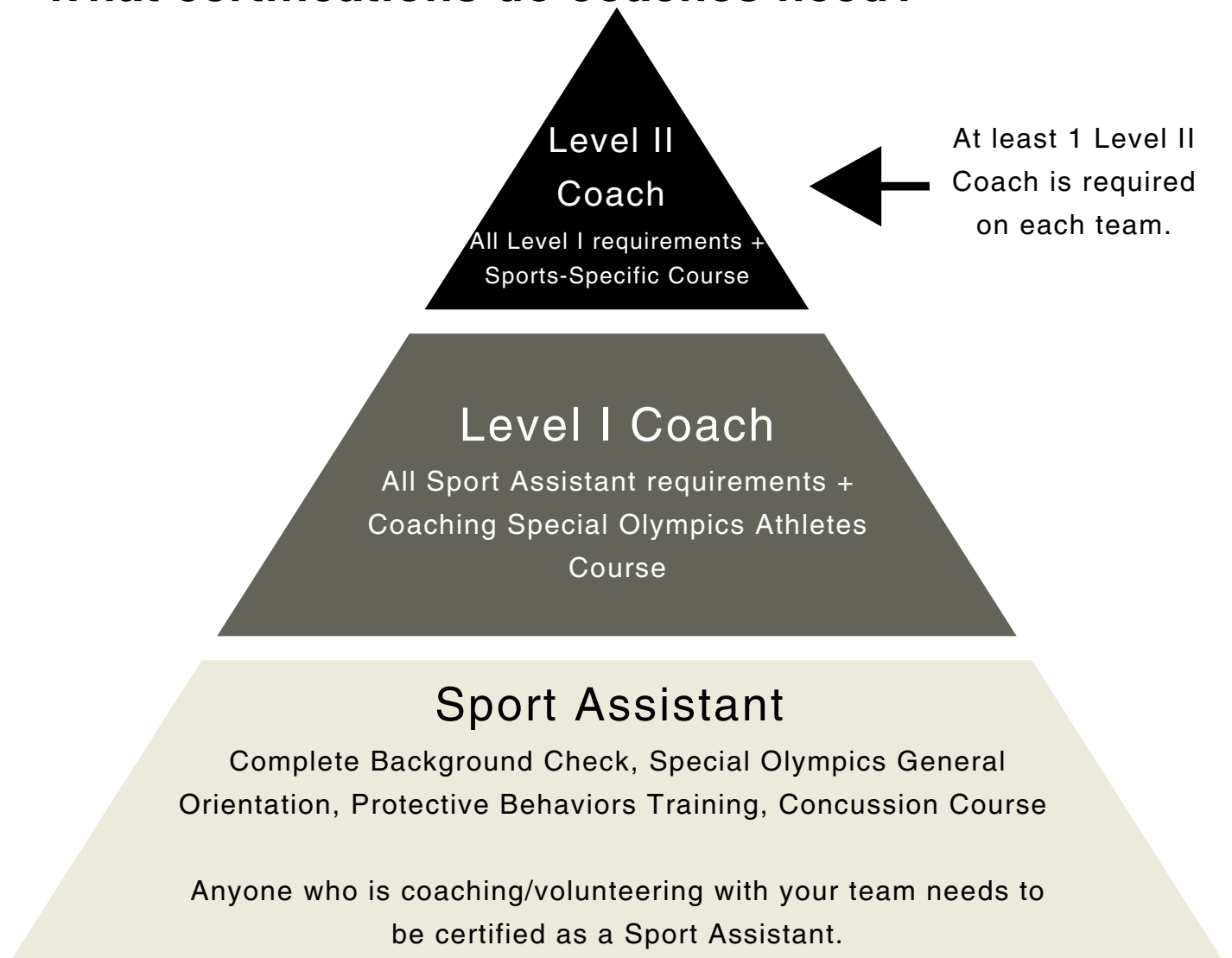
How many coaches do I need on my team?

There is no maximum number of coaches a team can have. However, you must keep a 1:4 ratio of coaches to athletes.

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 Regional Program Team (see page 25) can provide you with the appropriate link.

The Level II Sports-Specific Course varies. Please contact your Regional 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 Regional Program Team (see page 25) 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 regional 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.

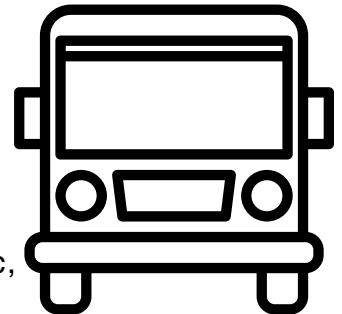
Can I get equipment for my team from Special Olympics New York?

Yes! Pending our budget, we can provide equipment to teams that need it for training purposes. To request equipment, please contact your Regional Program Team (see page 25).

Does Special Olympics New York provide transportation to the Winter Classic?

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 staff.

If you would like to request transportation to the Winter Classic, please complete a transportation request form, which can be found on the [Winter Classic website](#), and submit to the Downstate Competition Team (see page 25).



Are there other Special Olympics competitions besides the Winter Classic to compete in?

Yes! There are other sports competitions throughout the winter.

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

We also offer competitions in other sports during our summer and fall seasons. To view our calendar of events, please visit [our website](#).

Can my company or organization support the Winter Classic and/or Special Olympics New York?

Yes! We offer various opportunities to sponsor our signature events, including the Winter Classic.

We anticipate approximately 400 athletes, 100 coaches, and 250 volunteers in attendance, which cannot happen without the support of our community. We hope to see you there!



For more information on sponsorship, donations, or how to become a vendor, please contact the New York City Development Team (see page 26).

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.

November 2024
Training season officially opens

Friday, November 15
Competition registration due

Saturday, December 7
Competition Date

New York City 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 New York City staff member, please use the below table:

I need more information on...	Who should I contact?	Staff Emails
Athlete paperwork	New York City Program Team	Lindsey Coyle Director of Program School and Community lcoyle@nyso.org Fatoumata Ouattara Associate Director of Program School and Community fouattara@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		

New York City Office Address

211 E 43rd Street
 Suite 1100
 New York, NY 10017

New York City 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 New York City staff member, please use the below table:

I need more information on...	Who should I contact?	Staff Emails
Unified athlete paperwork	New York City Unified Program Team	Vance Toure Director of Program- Unified Sports & Community Outreach Lashawn Nixon Associate Director of Program- Unified Sports & Community Outreach
Unified coach certifications		
Unified equipment requests		
Sponsoring or becoming a vendor	New York City Development Team	Claire Flannery Associate Director of Development cflannery@nyso.org Tatum Boehnke Associate Director of Development tboehnke@nyso.org Zach Brenner Administrative Assistant zbrenner@nyso.org

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