

**Special  
Olympics**  
New York



# ***LONG ISLAND REGION CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE***

2025 Guide



Saturday, February 1, 2025

700 Vanderbilt Parkway

Commack, NY 11725

## How to Use

Welcome to the Long Island Region Champions Challenge Guide!

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

Please refer to 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 21 if you have any additional questions.

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## What is Champions Challenge?

Our Special Olympics New York Long Island Region Champions Challenge is an event that offers our athletes the chance to showcase their skills in floorball.

Approximately 75 athletes ages 8 and up compete as part of training clubs (teams) in floorball skills. 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 Champions Challenge, followed by a day of competition and medal ceremonies for all.

## What sports are offered at Champions Challenge?

Training clubs may register for any of the below sports.



Floorball Skills

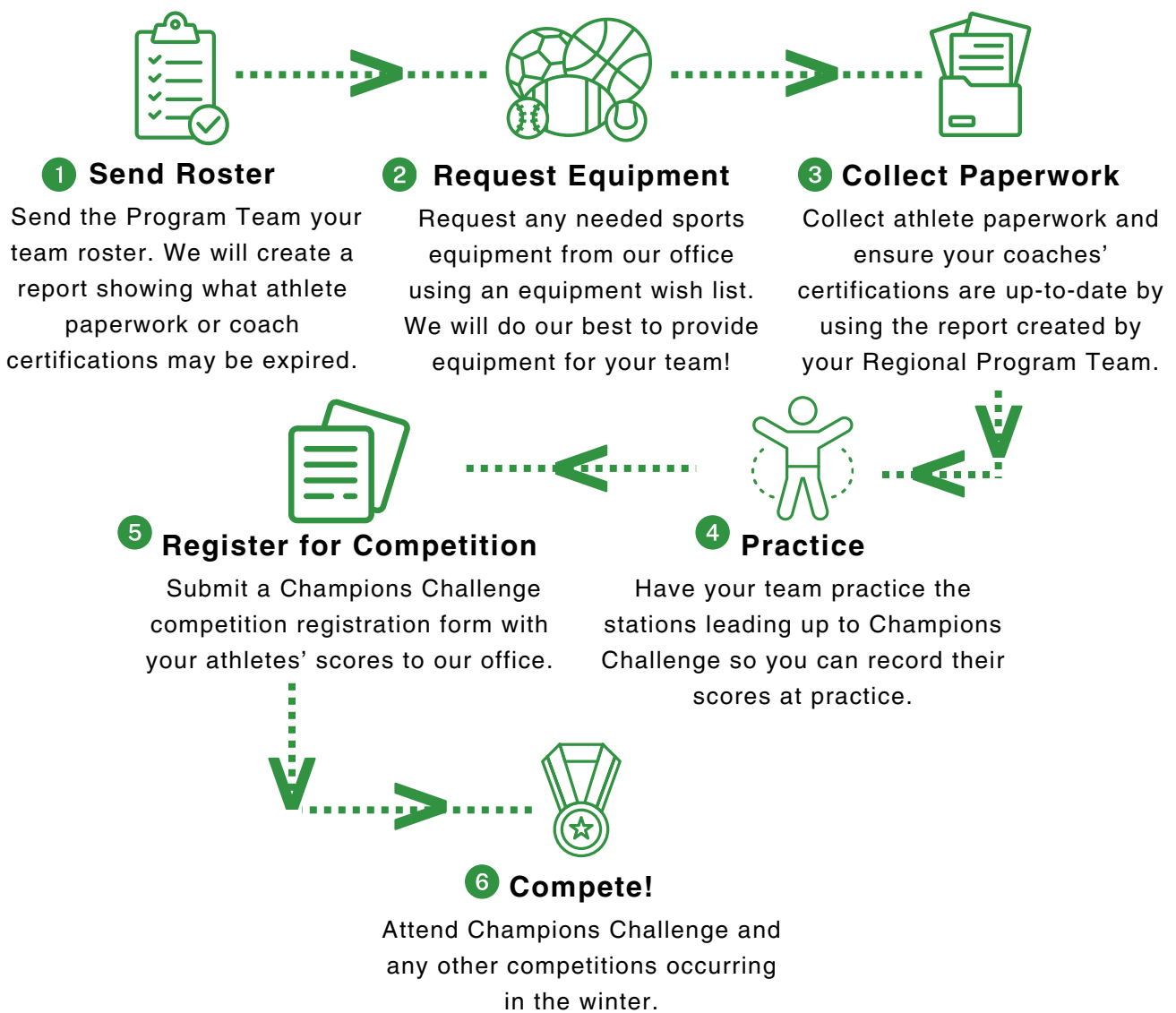
# My school or group has never competed at this competition before. What do we need to do?

Please see the diagram below. If you have any questions about this process, your Regional Program Team (see page 21) is more than happy to assist!



# My school or group has competed at this competition 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 21) is more than happy to assist!



## How do I register my training club for Champions Challenge?

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 21).

However, there is more to this competition 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 Champions Challenge. This form helps our office understand your athletes' abilities so we can place them in appropriate divisions.



## 1. Locate Your Form

- Visit the 2025 Champions Challenge 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 21).

# How do I fill out a competition registration form?

In the below example:

- The team is complete with 3 athletes as skills is an individual sport.
- There are 0 alternates listed as all athletes are registered.

## Peter Aquilone Winter Classic

Skills Athletes Form

<b>Team Name:</b> SONY Example				<b>Region:</b> Long Island			
<b>Instructions:</b>							
1) Fill out last name, first name, date of birth, and gender of all athletes that are being registered. 2) Athletes in wheelchairs must be identified by placing a check in the box under the wheelchair column. 3) All athletes must bring their own equipment. 4) <b>REQUIRED SCORES:</b> Total of scores from all five skills tests.							
ACTIVE ATHLETES		Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)	GENDER		Total Score	Wheelchair	
Last Name	First Name		M	F			
1	Mohlin	Emily	01/01/01	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	75	
2	Dawson	Alexis	02/02/02	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	84	
3	Hoffmann	Rebecca	03/03/03	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	118	x
4				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
7				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
8				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
9				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
10				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
11				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
12				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
13				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
14				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
15				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
ALTERNATES		Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)	GENDER		Total Score	Wheelchair	
Last Name	First Name		M	F			
1				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		



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*If you identify as non-binary, please leave the gender column blank.*

# How do I fill out a competition registration form?

In the below example:

- There is 1 coach who is fully certified. Skills must abide by the 1 coach to 4 athletes ratio. The alternate coach and the agency staff are both fully certified.

## Peter Aquilone Winter Classic

### Skills Coaches Form

<b>Team Name:</b>	SONY Example
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<b>Region:</b>	Long Island
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<b>Instructions:</b>
<p>1. All coaches must be certified.</p> <p>2. All volunteers for team must be registered. This includes coaches, agency support staff, one-on-ones, etc.</p> <p>3. Alternate coaches are to replace coaches who are unable to attend games. Please list ample alternates. If necessary, use additional sheets.</p>

Active Coaches		Date of Birth (Month/Date/Year)	Gender		Certification Current?	
Last Name	First Name		M	F	Yes	No
Lodispoto	Jesse	04/04/04	<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"/>		<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
Durandisse	David	05/05/05	<input checked="" 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"/>		<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
Lindsay	Emmanuel	06/06/06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 Commack Middle School. Please note that lunch will NOT be provided at this event.

Commack Middle School  
700 Vanderbilt Parkway  
Commack, NY 11725

## Projected Schedule of Events

Champions Challenge will take place on Saturday, February 1, 2025. Please note this schedule is subject to change.

- 9:00 AM: Check In (Coach & Volunteer)
- 10:00 AM: Opening Ceremonies
- 10:30 AM-11:45 AM: 21 and under athletes compete
- 11:45-1 PM: 22+ athletes compete
- 1:30 PM: Awards
- 2:00 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 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 administering authority, distinguishable between the teams.

All goalkeepers shall be dressed in jerseys and long trousers.

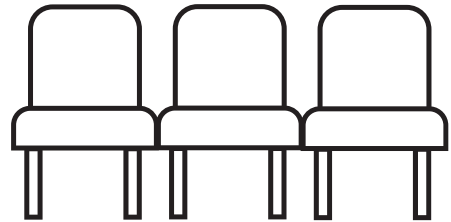
Athletes are not permitted to wear jeans or khakis.



## 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 Champions Challenge. All athlete paperwork should be submitted to your Regional Program Team (see page 21).

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 Form. 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 21) 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 21) 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 21).

## Does Special Olympics New York provide transportation to Champions Challenge?

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 Champions Challenge, please complete a transportation request form, which can be found on the [Champions Challenge website](#), and submit to the Downstate Competition Team (see page 21).

## **Are there other Special Olympics competitions besides Champions Challenge to compete in?**

Yes! There are other sports competitions throughout the winter.

All unexpired athlete paperwork applies to other competitions besides Champions Challenge. 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 Champions Challenge and/or Special Olympics New York?**

Yes! We offer various opportunities to sponsor our signature events, including Champions Challenge.

We anticipate approximately 75 athletes, 45 coaches, and 50 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 your Regional Program Team (see page 21).

## 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, January 17**  
Competition registration due

**Saturday, February 1**  
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
Coach certifications		Emily Mohlin Associate Director of Program emohlin@nyso.org
Equipment requests		
Transportation	Downstate Competition Team	David Durandisse Director of Competition ddurandisse@nyso.org
Sport rules		Emmanuel Lindsay Associate Director of Competition elindsay@nyso.org
Competition registration		
Sponsoring or becoming a vendor	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