



Special Olympics Minnesota 2024 Bowling Handbook

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COACH CERTIFICATION RATIO TABLE

The updated coach certification ratio tables can be found in the Special Olympics Minnesota Coaches Portal under policies and fact sheets, or here: [Coach Ratio Table](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Practice ideas, skill assessment/development, and rules can be found in the SOI Quick Start Guides and SOI Rules for each respective sport can be found at www.specialolympics.org/sports.aspx

The Official Special Olympics Rules for Bowling shall govern all Special Olympics competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon Federation Internationale des Quilleurs (FIQ) Rules as well as World Tenpin Bowling Association (WTBA) Rules for bowling can be found at <http://www.worldbowling.org>. Special Olympics Minnesota adheres to Special Olympics Sports Rules for Bowling except in instances highlighted below.

EVENTS

Singles

In traditional singles, athletes will bowl two games, and will not alternate lanes. Each athlete will need to submit a qualifying score for registration.

Doubles/Unified Doubles

Team members will not alternate lanes. When registering, you will submit separate scores for each participant on the doubles/Unified doubles team. The total score between the two will be the score used for divisioning.

If one team member scratches, then the team is scratched. Individuals can still bowl for participation, but there are no substitutions allowed.

Ramp Events

If an athlete or Unified partner requires the use of a ramp, the individual or team must be registered in a ramp event. In doubles events, the athlete or Unified partner that does not need a ramp will not be required to use one but is allowed to.

Ramp assisted and ramp unassisted bowling events are no longer differentiated. For example, athletes previously registered for Singles Ramp Assisted or Singles Ramp Unassisted will now be registered for Singles Ramp.

Ramp bowlers, like traditional bowlers, will bowl two games and not alternate lanes. Athletes should practice bowling multiple frames instead of one frame at a time. Competition venues may vary but athletes will bowl at least two frames at a time.

DIVISIONING

The qualifying score should be determined by bowling as many games as possible and taking the average score of one game. Coaches are responsible for recording the qualifying average during the online registration process.

Placements within a division are determined by adding the scores of the two games the athlete bowls. For Unified Doubles, the Unified Partner and athlete two-game scores are added together to determine the total score.

ADDITIONAL RULES OF COMPETITION

One lane assistant is allowed per athlete. A lane assistant for a singles bowler is only there for medical or behavioral assistance. No physical or verbal assistance can be given. Delegations need to note their athletes that need lane assistance during online registration and a coach's nametag must be worn by the lane assistant during competition.

In ramp bowling events, the lane assistant can place the ball on the ramp and position the ramp but cannot help with forward movement of the ball. Delegations must provide their own lane assistants. Lane assistants need to be Level 1 coaches registered for the competition.

Delegations must register enough coaches to meet the coach ratio. Unified partners can count towards the ratios provided the delegation has at least one non-playing Level 2 certified coach registered.

Special Olympics Minnesota will no longer use a bowling handicap as a part of the registration process. Each participant will need a qualifying score for each event they are competing in.

Bowling competitions are closed, meaning that coaches are not allowed in the bowling area, or allowed to coach during the competition. Exceptions are made for lane assistants with ramp bowlers or for lane assistants with bowlers for behavioral/medical reasons. This information must be noted during online registration in advance.

Bowling or team shirts are encouraged, but not necessary for competition. Hats are not allowed, due to distractions they may cause, but helmets are allowed for medical purposes. Flash photography is not allowed.

Bumpers are not allowed to be used at competitions. They may be used as a training tool, but the scores obtained with bumpers cannot be used as a qualifying average. Special Olympics Minnesota provides opportunities to as many ability levels as possible in all sports. Many adaptations made for other sports are offered to enable athletes to participate in a sport they otherwise could not. This is the reason ramp bowling is offered. Bumper bowling does not change the way someone bowls, it only changes the score a person achieves.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship is both the coach's and athlete's commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Below we highlight focus points and ideas on how to teach and coach sportsmanship to your athletes by leading by example.

Competitive Effort

- Put forth maximum effort during each event
- Practice the skills with the same intensity as you would perform in competition
- Always finish a match/event; Never quit

Fair Play Always

- Comply with the rules
- Demonstrate sportsmanship and fair play
- Respect the decision of the officials
- Strategy discussions with any athlete or partner are prohibited once the competition begins
 - If an official determines that a coach, partner, or spectator is violating this rule, the official may sanction the offending individual. Sanctions may include verbal warning, citing the coach/partner with unsportsmanlike conduct, or expulsion from the games.