



Wood County Special Olympics

1921 East Gypsy Lane Road
Bowling Green, OH 43402
419.352.5115



WOOD COUNTY
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

To: All Wood County Special Olympics Athletes, Families and Providers

From: Jennifer Krouse Recreation Manager & Wood County Special Olympics Coordinator
Ken Windisch WCSO Coach & Recreation Specialist
Angie Prowant WCSO Coach & Recreation Specialist
Kamara Traylor WCSO Coach & Recreation Specialist
Brooke Bruman WCSO Coach & Recreation Specialist

Re: 2026 Winter Sports Registration

Date: September 28th, 2026

Get Ready – Registration is Now Open for the 2026 Winter Sports Season!

Wood County Special Olympics (WCSO) is excited to announce that Swimming and Basketball will be offered this upcoming season. Please take a moment to review the important information below.

WCSO is proud to provide a year-round sports program with nine different offerings. With participation at an all-time high, we do our best to avoid scheduling conflicts between practices and competitions.

However, due to factors like facility rentals, program growth, and regional competition schedules, some overlap is occasionally unavoidable.

To make it all possible, we partner with numerous community resources and venues—renting swimming pools, bowling lanes, softball fields, and both indoor and outdoor tracks. While we begin scheduling conversations months in advance, availability sometimes limits our options.

As our program continues to grow, so does the need for additional teams in sports like basketball and volleyball. This means more practices, more games, and more coordination across teams. We also work closely with up to seven neighboring counties to provide competition opportunities, which adds another layer of scheduling complexity.

Your support and flexibility make all the difference. Thanks to you, we're able to provide a high-quality sports experience for our athletes, and we're looking forward to another successful season.

We can't wait to see you this winter—let's make it a great one!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Krouse
Wood County Special Olympics Coordinator

WOOD COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2026 WINTER

SPORTS REGISTRATION:

Basketball:

Wood County Special Olympics will be offering 4 teams this year!

- ***New This Year-School Age Team:** This team is specifically designed for athletes ages 8–15 who meet the basic skills assessment requirements. The team will focus on developing basketball skills while promoting physical fitness, teamwork, and confidence in a fun and supportive environment.
 - Basketball season for School Age (8-15yrs) will begin on Monday, November 16th, 2026, from 6:00-7:00 PM.
- **Skills Team:** This team is ideal for athletes who are new to the sport or are still learning the basics. The focus will be on understanding the rules, learning positions, and building confidence through fundamental skill development.
 - Basketball season for Skills Team will begin on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, with practices held on select Tuesdays and Thursdays between 4:15-5:00 PM.
- **2 Traditional Teams:** These teams are for athletes who have already developed basic skills of the sport and are ready for more structured gameplay and increased opportunities for competition.
 - Basketball season for Traditional Teams will begin on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, with practices held on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 5:00-7:45 PM, depending on team placement.

**** Required by Special Olympics Ohio****

There is a mandatory Basketball Skills Assessment for ALL Athletes.

Team placement for all athletes will be determined based on their Skills Assessment results.

This assessment will be held on Thursday, November 12th, 2026.

For last names that start with the letters **A through M, the assessment will be held on at the BG Community Center between **5:00-6:15pm**.**

For last names that start with the letters **N through Z, the assessment will be held on at the BG Community Center between **6:15-7:30pm****

Assessments only take 15 minutes and will be done on a first come, first serve basis. Once your assessment is completed you may leave. If you are unable to make your time, please reach out to Coach Ken Windisch at kwindisch@woodcountydd.org ASAP to schedule your assessment.

Team rosters and the Winter Sports calendar will be sent out in your confirmation email once registrations are received and skills assessment scores are recorded.

Swimming:

Swimming season will begin on Monday, November 16th, 2025, with practices every Monday and Wednesday between 5:30-7:30pm depending on team placement. Athletes will be grouped by skill level and both groups will swim at BGSU's Cooper Pool.

****MINIMUM SWIM SKILLS REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION ON THE SWIM TEAM****

1. Athletes must demonstrate breath control.
2. Athletes must be able to independently demonstrate a front glide with face in the water and both feet off the bottom of the pool for 2 pool lengths.

**** Required by Special Olympics Ohio
There is a mandatory Swimming Skills Assessment.**

This assessment will be held on Monday, November 9th, 2026

For last names that start with the letters **A through M, the assessment will be held at the Nichols Therapy Pool between **5:30-6:30pm**.**

For last names that start with the letters **L through Z, the assessment will be held at the Nichols Therapy Pool between **6:30-7:30pm**.**

Assessments only take 15 minutes and will be done on a first come, first serve basis. Once your assessment is completed you may leave. If you are unable to make your time, please reach out to Coach Angie Prowant at aprowant@woodcountyydd.org ASAP to schedule your assessment.

Athletes participating in swimming will need to provide their own swimsuit, towel, and goggles.

Specific Team rosters and Winter Sports calendars will be sent in a confirmation email after registrations are received, and skill assessments are completed. Specific swim times will be included in the confirmation email.

****Free Parking permitted at the Ice Arena parking lot across the street.***

To participate, register online at:

www.woodcountyydd.org > Our Services > Special Olympics (Click on this link)

Registration Deadline: Sunday, October 25th!

If you have questions, please let us know by emailing specialolympics@woodcountydd.org or contact Jen Krouse, Wood County Special Olympics Coordinator at (419) 352-5115 ext.7907.

***All athletes MUST have a valid Special Olympics Ohio Registration, Release, Health History, & Medical form to be eligible to participate on file.
The minimum age to participate is 8.**

Please be aware that the Special Olympics Ohio Release, Health History & Medical Forms HAVE been updated.
If your Physical Exam form *is less than 3 years old* on the old forms, they are still valid.

- **If you are New to Wood County Special Olympics, your information needs updated, or your Physical Exam form is older than 3 years, please complete the new forms found online at: www.woodcountydd.org > Our Services> Special Olympics> Special Olympics Forms**