

Licking County Special Olympics AKA Newark Area Special Olympics but formal name Licking Newark Area Special Olympics

Policies and Procedures

For the 2022-23 school year we will have the following sports options: basketball, swimming, power lifting, track (athletics). For additional sports to be added we will need a head coach for the sport and enough athletes and volunteers to make it feasible.

Rewired serves individuals with and without disabilities and has agreed to be the **communication hub** of the organization. A phone line with an answering machine is available specifically for special Olympics. It will be answered M-F 6 am-6 pm beginning Feb. 1. Coach and athlete files, uniforms, and basic business information will be housed at Rewired (616 Hebron Road Unit A). You can stop in, fax info, email info, and/or call for pertinent information and updates.

Phone: 740-522-6974

Fax: 740-618-8045

Facebook: Newark Area Special Olympics

Email: lcountyspecialolympics@gmail.com

To be considered eligible to compete and apply for a free YMCA membership, athletes and coaches must be in good standing. Good standing for athletes means a current physical and medical history are on file, state and local rules have been signed by the athlete and/or guardian and the athlete has not been suspended from play due to inappropriate behavior. Coaches and volunteers need to have their background check completed and all required training videos.

Head coaches for each sport are responsible for:

1. scheduling and setting up practices and providing the information to athletes and Rewired. Notifying athletes AND Rewired of any changes to the schedule.
2. Recruiting the volunteers necessary to assist; and work with Rewired to make sure all required trainings and background checks are completed
3. Working with guardians and Rewired to assure that all athletes have the required documents on file and you have a copy of them with you at every sporting event
4. Maintaining a positive atmosphere and adhering to SOOH rules and policies at practices, competitions, and social events sponsored by SO.
5. You may not charge an athlete, ever, for any service related to special Olympics. Our local branch will cover the cost of uniforms and basic needs for coaches and athletes.
 6. Communicate equipment and uniform needs to Rewired and/or Becky
 7. Work with Rewired and/or Becky to make arrangements for monetary needs
 8. Work with Rewired to arrange transportation for out of town events
9. Attend or designate a responsible party to be in charge at all practices, competitions and events related to your sport or team

Basic expectations for athletes and guardians

Maintain a positive attitude and atmosphere at all events.

Support your athlete by encouraging them and focusing on growth and well being.

Encourage appropriate behavior and individual responsibility at SO events

Participate in fundraising opportunities

We will provide transportation and meals if necessary for out of town events (outside of Licking County). You are responsible for arranging transportation inside Licking County including getting to and from the drop off and pick up points.

Athletes will not be reprimanded or disciplined for missing practices or events due to illness or medical conditions, work schedules, or family emergencies. If any of these situations arise please communicate with the head coach and Rewired. If an athlete enrolls in a district or state level competition and does not attend for one of the reasons above they will be ineligible for competition for 1 year.

Minor behavior violations (cussing, not following directions, etc.) will be handled at the discretion of the coach and volunteers present for the situation. The general rule of thumb will be: warning and redirection followed by removal from the current event

Moderate and major behavior violations (continued bullying or threatening of another or intentionally harming another or other illegal activity) will be handled by the head coach and reported to Becky. The athlete could be disciplined by removal from the current season, current year, or in extreme instances expelled from Special Olympics Ohio.

Overnights

When competition out of town requires an overnight stay, we will pay for 1 hotel room per athlete or 1 suite per family (if there is more than 1 athlete participating). It is the responsibility of each athlete and/or guardian to determine who will stay in the same room as the athlete.

We will pay for all athletes and coaches to be provided 3 meals daily

Athletes will need their own spending money and chaperones will need to pay for their own meals and food

If an athlete has special medical, supervision, or hygiene needs it is the responsibility of the guardian and/or caregiver to either attend with the athlete to meet those needs or find someone who can do that. Our volunteers cannot assist with medication management, managing medical necessities and attending to individual hygiene needs of our athletes.