

STATE GAMES SELECTION REQUIREMENTS & PROCESS



ADVANCING TO COMPETITIONS

1. An athlete must attend County Games in order to advance to Area Games.
2. An athlete must attend Area Games and meet the Attendance Policy (see below) to be considered as an attendee for State Games.
3. If parents or guardians feel their athlete cannot handle the trip to State Games, they are to notify the coaches prior to Area Games.
4. Athletes who are training in multiple sports need to choose one sport to compete in per season. They are to notify the appropriate coaches of their decision prior to Area Games.

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Special Olympics Florida gives each county a “quota” of how many athletes we can bring to State Games. So that we are prepared for the quota distribution from the State we need have an established list of those eligible to go.

1. Athletes who earned at least one first place finish at Area Games will be entered into a random blind drawing to determine if they will attend State Games.
2. The head coach will conduct the drawing at the practice immediately following Area Games in the presences of at least one other witness and/or anyone wishing to observe.
3. The head coach will record the order in which the names were drawn so that when we receive our quota from the State Office, we can select the corresponding amount of athletes to attend.
 - a. If an alternate is needed, the head coach will refer back to the order of names drawn and select the next athlete on the list.
 - b. If there are not enough first-place finishers to fill our quota, then a separate drawing will be conducted among the second-place finishers from Area Games and so on until the quota is met.
4. Ballots may be viewed prior to the drawing upon request.
 - a. Each athlete will receive only one ballot for the drawing, regardless of the amount of first-place finishes they received at Area Games.
5. Team Sports are excluded from this process. The State Office selects which teams advance based on their wins/losses and the quota available for the competition.

70% ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. To advance to State Games, an athlete must attend at least 70% of the established practices from the start of the official season up until Area Games. (Round to the nearest whole number. Ex: 0.4 round down, 0.5 round up)
 - a. If this requirement has not been met, the athlete cannot advance to State Games.
 - b. The following are examples of the required attendance prior to Area Games
 - i. 15 established official practices- must attend no less than 11 practices
 - ii. 14 established official practices- must attend no less than 10 practices
 - iii. 13 established official practices- must attend no less than 9 practices
2. All head coaches will establish the number of official practices prior to the beginning of the season and will distribute those dates to all participating athletes prior to the start of practice.

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EXCEPTIONS TO THE 70 % ATTENDANCE POLICY:

1. If the athlete is participating in another sanctioned Special Olympics competition or event.
2. If practice has been established and inclement weather causes the cancellation of the practice before it begins, then this will not be considered an official practice.
 - a. However if practice begins and then must be cancelled due to weather, it will satisfy the requirement for one official practice.
3. *No other exceptions will be made. Please use your few absences wisely by “saving” some absences for unexpected emergencies that might arise- such as death in the family or even sick days.*
4. For Team Sports, the 70% rule will apply with a coaches’ vote for exceptions. If an athlete is not going to be able to attend 70% of the practices the coaches of that sport (if more than three) will vote on whether or not the athlete can participate. If there are not three coaches for that particular sport, the Head Coach, Training Coordinator and County Coordinator will vote.

STATE GAMES TRAVELING REQUIREMENTS

1. In order to be considered for attending and representing Seminole County at State Competition, athletes must be able to travel to the competition as part of the delegation and remain with the delegation at all times.
 - a. This means that each athlete must eat meals, participate in events, and stay at the designated hotel with the delegation at all times.
 - b. An athlete may leave with parents or guardians at the conclusion of the games, but this must be approved by the head coach or delegate prior to the competition.
 - c. Exceptions can be made on a case by case base for athletes with unique situations; however, the coach needs to be notified of this in advance.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. Under no circumstances will an athlete be able to train on his/her own and submit that as a legal or established practice.
 - a. All practices will be held and conducted in the presence of the designated head coach or designate.
2. In the case of Bowling, a minimum of 10 games must be completed prior to County Competition and official scores must be submitted to the head coach.
 - a. Practice is conducted at Altamonte Lanes on Monday afternoon; only those scores will count.
3. Certain sports will require teams to compete in competition, either in place of or in addition to County Games. This might require overnight stay depending on the location of the event.
 - a. It will be mandatory for all athletes participating in that sport to attend that event and travel with the team. (due to liabilities)
 - b. Only urgent excuses will be accepted (ex. Death in the family, hospitalization of the athlete, etc)
 - c. This is done to ensure that enough athletes will make the trip so that Seminole County will not be disqualified from further competition.