

North Suburban Special Olympics
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Hotline: 414-327-1016

<https://northsuburbanspecialolympics.org>

November 2024

FALL UPDATES

VOLLEYBALL

Our three teams (Warriors, North Stars and Spikers) have done well in practices and competition. We were able to host our Volleyball Invitational at Nicolet and competed in the State games.

BOWLING

We had a full house most weeks and offer participation in bowling as well as competition as individual, doubles, teams, and ramp. Everyone's had fun for this season. The on-site Regional tournament is returning, and we expect a full complement. State games are the first weekend in December, in Weston. North Suburban is not supplying transportation and we will not know until later if the date for Region 8 is Saturday December 7 or Sunday December 9th. Please confirm whether you will be attending, if qualified.

FALL UPDATE

This was the second year that athletes were eligible to compete in BOTH volleyball and bowling and there were additional athletes from last year who did just that!

TEAM BASKETBALL

The practices for team basketball will be held at the MILWAUKEE SAFETY ACADEMY (6680 N. Teutonia Ave., Milwaukee, 53209). For the first practices, we will be splitting the group to do the basic skills and team evaluation. With new athletes joining and the loss of several these past years, we want to remind everyone that you may not be on the same team as the previous year; we may have to change team membership to fit the numbers, skills, and needs of all athletes. With the holidays coming fast, practices the first weeks are important for team assignment. Practices will be 6:30-8:00pm.

Please let us know which nights for the first two weeks you can make it – everyone interested in team basketball should come to one a week for the first two weeks. Monday, December 2 or Wednesday, December 4 and Monday, December 9 or Wednesday, December 11.

We hope to split into teams *after the new year*; and will inform all as to what our plans are for after the first two weeks. We will be using the Milwaukee Safety Academy for team and skills practices. Practices will be either Monday or Wednesday. There may be a few dates that will change a practice – players will be notified. As usual, practices will stop on the week after any team is eliminated from competition; this may affect where and which night the remaining teams will practice.

There will be no practices over the holidays – check the calendar - enjoy the break.

Milwaukee Safety Academy (MSA) – come in the back/side door and use the supplied sign in sheet, park in the back of the building, not in front of the building.. Because of the activities held at the Academy, keep all noise in the hallway to a minimum. (6680 N. Teutonia Ave., Milwaukee, 53209). Reminders: do not roam the building; we are guests of this facilities. Please be on time and make sure your ride comes in good time after the practice time.

We sometimes get short notice if a facility is not available; so it should become a habit to call the hotline before coming to a practice to verify time and location. Don't forget that weather and the safety of those driving is always important – CALL THE HOTLINE! 414-327-1016; information, if possible, will also be emailed and on the website – <https://northsuburbanspecialolympics.org>

Tournaments/Invitationals – The invitationals are January 19th and February 1-2 – both at Vincent High School; the District Tournament will be on Sunday March 2, 2025, at Homestead High School. The Sectional Tournament, for those teams that advance will be March 15 at New Berlin West High School. State competition will be part of the Indoor Games on April 11-13, 2025.

BASKETBALL SKILLS 2025

Basketball Skills practices will begin on Monday January 13, 2025. Practice will be 6:00-6:30pm, with head coach Kim Gaunt – practices will be at the Milwaukee Safety Academy. District Basketball Skills competition will be held at the Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School in Jackson on Sunday, March 16, 2025. State competition will be part of the Indoor Games on Friday April 11th – only the one day at late afternoon into the early evening. Athletes can compete in Basketball Skills and Swim, but NOT team basketball.

SWIMMING 2025

The new schedule of sports seasons that SOWI had set up affected several sports, including swimming. We will, as usual, allow participation in swimming. We have requested the pool at Brown Deer High School for practices starting in January, but this has not yet been confirmed. Swimmers will be notified as soon as we have verified information. Regional swim is March 22, 2025, and we plan on participating in the TM swim meet on February 21, 2025. Swim state competition will be part of the Indoor Games on April 11-13, 2025.

SWIM VS BASKETBALL

With the new SOWI sports seasons, we realize that making the choice between these two sports is a difficult decision and one many would prefer not to make. However, a choice has to be made. Athletes have to choose to compete in swim OR basketball; not both. To be able to put everything together, we must know the decision by each athlete by December 1st = basketball or swim. Changes can be made in the following year, but we will not make changes in player choice for this year after that date. Again a reminder that athletes can participate in swimming even if competing in basketball, but not participate in basketball.

SOCCER/TRACK/TENNIS 2025

We hope to have some indoor soccer practices on March-April Wednesdays; we may have outdoors if we have a warm spring. More information will be available later. Outdoor soccer practices are scheduled for the practice field at Brown Deer High School. Track is scheduled for the Brown Deer High School Facilities (start date in March weather permitting) so practices will be very important for event decision and timing. Regional Track will be May 17, 2025; unverified yet for soccer. Note the practice times for each sport on the calendar.

General Sports Information

We try to give as much scheduling information as we can, as much in advance as we have it. Please remember to keep practices, tournament dates and competition dates in mind when scheduling vacations, etc. Not only is this important for those in individual sports – to be able to learn and possibly advance to the next level, but it is important for all team events. Teams learn to play together and rely on each member to be there when needed. Participation is allowed in individual sports, such as swimming, track, and tennis - but team sports require all athletes to be competitive.

It is mandatory that each team member attend and compete at a district level to advance to state (if that team advances) (or other mid-level competition). It is also required that every player participate in pre-district games and invitationals or other tournaments (a minimum of two games). If an athlete misses the area/district tournament, that athlete is no longer on the team for the year and should no longer attend practices – the team has to learn to work together, if that team advances to the next level of competition. Even if attendance at all invitationals is not mandatory, it greatly helps each team to have all members at such events. Annual dates are usually held at about the same weekend each year, so this would also help in advance planning. Special practices, games, etc. – we may not know much in advance, but we do let everyone involved know as soon as we do. Practices after a district event, even for those individuals or teams not advancing to state are very worthwhile – it's the time to work on skills or try something new, etc.

Reminder: Please pick up your athlete on time after a practice or other event. While we cannot guarantee to the minute when everyone will be ready to leave, we have had a few occasions where there was a significant wait for the last driver.

MISCELLANEOUS

CONCESSIONS

HELP! We can always use help at our concession stands (NSSO fundraisers) at the MPS Classic I, MPS Brandon Spewer Tournament (two days), District Basketball, the fall NSSO Volleyball invitational, and don't forget the Sendik's Grill Out dates throughout the summer. We can use volunteers for any of these occasions - please consider helping us out. If you are willing to help out at any of these tournaments - setting up, working, taking down, etc. - please contact Barbara Gregory (414-541-1939). If you can help with the Sendik's Grill-Out dates, contact Chuck Sigurdson (414-688-9106; csigurdson@sbcglobal.net)

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS – information will be distributed for these events.

PACKER PARTY – Sunday, November 17, 2024 – Milwaukee Safety Academy = watch for updates as the time of the Packer game may change and cause this event to be cancelled.

REMINDER !!! NORTH SUBURBAN'S HOTLINE NUMBER  414-327-1016

WEBSITE - <https://northsuburbanspecialolympics.org>

Don't forget to check the Hotline and website regularly. During winter, it may not seem that bad weather would cancel a practice without being a blizzard, but there may be other unexpected reasons – remember when the swimming pool had no water? We cannot call all athletes or coaches when we cancel due to bad weather – check the hotline, your email, and/or the website. This also means athletes should not call their coaches to check to see if practice is cancelled. The cancellation message is generally on the hotline approximately 45 minutes before practice is scheduled (website as soon as possible). We will attempt to call athletes and volunteers for practice cancellations that are NOT due to bad weather, but it is still a good idea to listen to the Hotline or check the website before you leave for practice, because it is not always possible to reach everyone nor is there sufficient time to update any format.

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