



Special Olympics Minnesota **2022 Golf Handbook**

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

New in 2021/2022!

- Individual Skills pitch shot circle is now 6 meters in diameter instead of 12m (SOI Rule Change)

Special Olympics Minnesota Golf Handbook

GOLF RULES OF COMPETITION

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Golf shall govern all Special Olympics competitions. Special Olympics has created these rules based on The Rules of Golf as approved by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews. Special Olympics Minnesota will adhere to The Rules of Golf except in the instances highlighted below.

Competition Information

- Nine-hole Eligibility – In order for an athlete to compete in nine-hole traditional stroke play or nine-hole alternate shot team play at State they must have an individual skills score of 40 at a sanctioned event (Regional or previous State competition). In addition, the athlete must score 10 points or more in at least one of the skills and five points in two other skills. See below for 9-hole eligibility restrictions at State.
- Walking – Athletes need to walk. Exceptions are made for medical reasons, which must be submitted and approved prior to the competition. A partner, caddy or golf cart will carry golf bags if available.
- Stroke Limit – The most strokes that may be taken on any hole is nine. If an athlete or team has not holed the ball after nine strokes, a score of 9x is recorded on the scorecard.
- Penalties – All regulation golf rules and penalties apply.
- Lost ball: to keep pace of play, a player shall not look for a lost ball longer than 5 minutes. At this time, all players/volunteers in the group shall decide the general area where the ball was lost, drop, and assess a penalty stroke.
- Participants can always keep the flag in while on the green but must declare this before their shot has been made.
- Delegations must register enough coaches to meet the coach ratios. Unified Partners can count towards the ratios provided the delegation has at least one non-playing Level 2 coach registered.

Unified Sports Alternate Shot Team Play

- Three-hole or nine-hole.
- Alternate Shot Team Play is designed to give the athlete an opportunity for transition from skills to individual play and progress under the guidance of a partner whose ability and knowledge of golf is more advanced. The alternate shot partner can assist with club selection, teeing the ball, alignment, etc.
- Athletes will tee off one more time than the Unified partner and teams will switch teeing off at each hole.
- Unified Partners can serve as caddies in Unified 3-hole and Unified 9-hole formats.
- When creating a team name during registration, please use the format of Athlete Last Name/Partner Last Name (ex: Heger/Hupila)
- There are no substitutions in Unified from Regional to State; if an athlete or Unified Partner scratches the team is a scratch.

Five-hole competition (State only)

- For athletes in traditional or Unified 9-hole competitions whose Regional score (typically close to shooting a 70) calculates to a handicap of 30 or more for the State competition will be required to play in 5-hole at the State competition.
- Traditional and 9-hole participants may request to be moved from 9-hole to 5-hole after their Regional competition but must be done before the State Registration Deadline.
 - This event is designed to assist with pace of play along with overall experience for golfers.
 - Traditional and Unified teams will be notified prior to State if they will be required to participate in the 5-hole competition.

Traditional Shot 3-hole and 9-hole

Caddies

- The tournament committee may prohibit the use of caddies or restrict the choice of caddies. (Rules of Golf USGA Handbook Appendix 1, Section 2)
 - A caddie must be a certified level 2 coach, registered for the competition
 - An athlete must be registered as having a caddie for assistance, if an athlete is not registered for this, he/she will be disqualified
 - An athlete may only have one caddie, a two-stroke penalty is assessed for each hole an athlete uses more than one caddie (Rule 6-4)
- The caddie is responsible for knowing the Rules of Golf. Should the caddie violate a rule, the athlete will be penalized as if he/she committed the violation. (Rule 6-1)
- While “making a stroke” the caddie shall not be positioned close to or on an extension of the line of play or putt behind the ball. The caddie can hold the line during practice swings but must move away when the athlete addresses the ball. (Rule 14-2b)
- A caddie can tend the flag, but this must be arranged before the athlete makes his/her stroke. Once the stroke has been made, the pin may not be removed. If so, it results in a two-stroke penalty. (Rule 17-1)

- A caddie can:
 - Carry or push the athlete's clubs
 - Assist with club selection and teeing a ball on the tee box if needed
 - Fix divots, ball marks, rake sand traps, attend the flag if requested before the stroke
 - Help locate a golf ball and athlete's score
 - Suggest aim/line
 - The caddie may not physically assist, but can suggest where to aim
 - The caddie may not put a mark on the ground, or touch the line to assist

Individual Skills

- Six Events – Short Putt, Long Putt, Chip, Pitch, Iron and Wood
- No bunker shot event.
- A hybrid club (part iron, part wood) can be used for the wood shot or iron shot but not both.
- Five shots per event. A missed shot will count as one of the five shots.
- Volunteers are allowed to help tee up a shot.
- Scoring – Individual Skills scoring information is found in the SOI Golf Rules (pages 6-13). Scores need to be submitted on the registration forms.

GOLF DIVISIONING AND INDIVIDUAL SKILLS SCORING

Golfers competing in individual skills must submit their individual skills score for registration. Individual skills qualifying scores are the total points of all six individual skills (short putt, long putt, chip shot, pitch shot, iron shot and wood shot).

Three-hole and nine-hole golfers are required to submit a three-hole or nine-hole score. Golfers at Area competitions are divisioned according to their individual skills score and/or three-hole/nine-hole score. Unified teams in alternate shot are also required to submit a three-hole or nine-hole score.

Individual Skills Scoring

- Short Putt
 - Two meters from the hole
 - Five shots at the hole
 - Two circles are placed around the hole, one at 0.5 meters and the other at 1.5 meter
 - Scoring
 - Zero points = Misses shot
 - One point = Swinging and striking the ball
 - Two points = Ball stops within the 1.5 meter circle (radius)
 - Three points = Ball stops within the 0.5 meter circle (radius)
 - Four points = Ball goes in the hole
 - Short Putt score = Add the score for all five shots

- Long Putt
 - Eight meters from the hole
 - Five shots at the hole
 - Two circles are placed around the hole. One is 0.5 meters and the other is 1.5 meters
 - Scoring
 - Zero points = Misses shot
 - One point = Swinging and striking the ball
 - Two points = Ball stops within the 1.5 meter circle (radius)
 - Three points = Ball stops within the 0.5 meter circle (radius)
 - Four points = Ball goes in the hole
 - Long Putt score = add the score for all five shots
- Chip Shot
 - 14 meters from the hole
 - Five shots at the hole
 - Two circles are placed around the hole. One circle is three meters and the other circle is six meters.
 - Scoring
 - Zero points = Misses shot
 - One point = Swinging and striking the ball
 - Two points = Ball stops within the six meter circle (radius)
 - Three points = Ball stops within the three meter circle (radius)
 - Four points = Ball goes in the hole
 - Chip Shot Score = add the scores for all five shots
- Pitch Shot
 - Requires a one-meter high x five-meter-wide barrier
 - Golfer needs to be five meters in front of the barrier and the target area needs to be five meters behind the barrier
 - Hitting towards a 6-meter circle (diameter)
 - Five shots at the hole
 - Scoring
 - Zero points = Misses shot
 - One point = Swinging and striking the ball
 - Two points = Ball goes over the barrier
 - Three points = Ball lands in and rolls out of the 6-meter circle, or lands out of the circle and comes to rest in the circle
 - Four points = Ball clears the barrier and comes to rest in the circle
 - Pitch Shot score = add the score for all five shots
- Iron Shot
 - Iron club required, although a hybrid club is allowed for either the iron or wood shot (not for both).
 - May hit off a tee, the ground or a mat. A volunteer is allowed to tee up the shot.
 - Five shots
 - Target is 35 meters wide

- **Scoring**
 - Zero points = Misses shot
 - One point = Swinging and striking the ball
 - Two points = ball comes to rest between 30-60 meters and in the 35-meter-wide target area
 - Three points = Ball comes to rest between 60-90 meters and in the 35-meter-wide target area
 - Four points = Ball comes to rest beyond 90 meters and in the 35-meter-wide target area
 - Iron Shot score = add the score for all five shots
- **Wood Shot**
 - Wood club required, although a hybrid club is allowed for either the iron or wood shot (not for both).
 - May hit off a tee, the ground or a mat. A volunteer is allowed to tee up the shot.
 - Five shots
 - Target is 50 meters wide
 - **Scoring**
 - Zero points = Misses shot
 - One point = Swinging and striking the ball
 - Two points = Ball comes to rest between 60-90 meters and in the 50-meter-wide target area
 - Three points = Ball comes to rest between 90-120 meters and in the 50-meter-wide target area
 - Four points = Ball comes to rest beyond 120 meters and in the 50-meter-wide target area
 - Wood Shot score = add the score for all five shots

Additional Information

- Bunker shot is not included in Individual Skills
- Diagrams can be found on pages 6-13 of the SOI Golf Rules

EXAMPLE INDIVIDUAL SKILLS SCORE SHEET



Special Olympics
Minnesota

2010 Fall Games

Golf: Individual Skills Competition

Emily Petersen <small>MN:12:SRG: South Region Stars</small>	EXAMPLE	F03
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Scoring for Long & Short Putt and Chip Shot:

- For each attempt, score:
- 0 Points total for a swing and miss at the ball
- 1 Points total for striking the ball
- 2 Points total for landing the ball in the first circle
- 3 Points total for landing the ball in the second circle
- 4 Points total for getting the ball in the hole

Short Putt	Attempts:	3	2	3	2	1		Total:	11
Long Putt	Attempts:	1	2	2	1	3		Total:	9
Chip Shot	Attempts:	1	1	3	1	1		Total:	7

Scoring for Pitch Shot:

- For each attempt, score:
- 0 Points total for a swing and miss at the ball
- 1 Points total for striking the ball
- 2 Points total for the ball making it over the barrier
- 3 Points total for landing the ball in the circle and rolling out or landing outside the circle and rolling in
- 4 Points total for getting the ball the circle

Pitch Shot	Attempts:	1	1	1	1	1		Total:	5
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Scoring for Wood Shot:

- For each attempt, score:
- 0 Points total for a swing and miss at the ball
- 1 Points total for striking the ball
- 2 Points total for landing the ball beyond the 60m line
- 3 Points total for landing the ball beyond the 90m line
- 4 Points total for landing the ball beyond the 120m line

Wood Shot	Attempts:	2	1	1	2	3		Total:	9
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Scoring for Iron Shot:

- For each attempt, score:
- 0 Points total for a swing and miss at the ball
- 1 Points total for striking the ball
- 2 Points total for landing the ball beyond the 30m line
- 3 Points total for landing the ball beyond the 60m line
- 4 Points total for landing the ball beyond the 90m line

Iron Shot	Attempts:	3	1	1	3	2		Total:	10
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Final Score is the sum of the above totals: 51

COMPETITION INFORMATION

Regional Competitions

Regio	Date	Location	City	Register by
Metro	July 11	Victory Links Golf Course	Blaine	June 19
North	July 29	Lake Miltona Golf Club	Alexandria	July 7
Metro	August 1	Hidden Greens Golf Course	Hastings	July 8

State Competition

Date	Location	City	Quota Due	Register By
August 21	Oak Marsh Golf Course	Oakdale	July 10	July 31

For any regional or state competition questions, please contact sports@somn.org.

DIVISIONING

Coaches need to submit an individual skills score for all athletes competing in individual skills. Athletes competing in three-hole, nine-hole, or unified alternate shot must submit their three-hole or nine-hole score. State golf is divisioned using an athlete's score from their Area competition.

NOTE ON CLOSED COMPETITIONS

Area and State golf competitions are closed competitions, which means coaches, parents and guardians can walk along the course but cannot coach athletes (e.g. they cannot tell them which club to use or say things like "remember to bend your knees" before tee off).

COACH CERTIFICATION RATIO TABLES

The updated Coach Certification Ratio Tables can be found in the SOMN Coaches Portal under Policies & Fact Sheets, or by clicking this link: [SOMN Coach Certification Ratio Tables](#)

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 a few focus points and ideas on how to teach and coach sportsmanship to your athletes. Lead by example.

Competitive Effort

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

Fair Play at All Times

- Always comply with the rules.
- Demonstrate sportsmanship and fair play at all times.
- Respect the decision of the officials at all times.
- Strategy discussions with any athlete and/or Unified partner are prohibited once the match 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 game.