

EKS Games - All-Star Experience

All-Star Unified Experience for Juniors (8-15yr olds)

This program is geared toward the Athletes and Partners who are transitioning from the Unified Champion Schools program and/or those younger participants that are too young to be safely included on a Senior or Masters teams in a team sport. Often when programs have a small number of young athletes but not enough for a team, those young athletes gets placed on an older team (Senior or Masters) when it is really not a good or safe fit. This can lead to an intimidating experience for both the participant and the participant's parents or caregiver. This program allows you to register your younger Athletes and Partners (age 8-15) as individuals, for team competition during the EKS Games.

Athletes and Partners registered as individuals (there is no minimum from a single Delegation) will participate in a "training camp" style setting with coaches and volunteers to lead their instruction for the day. Following this instruction period, we will divide participants into teams and they will compete in at least one game. Delegations should still provide training/practice for the individuals in the registered sport for eight (8) weeks prior to the All-Star Unified Experience.

For competition at Brebeuf on Sunday, September 9, the All Stars will compete in Soccer. For competition at Midwest Sports Complex on Saturday, September 22, the All Stars will compete in T-Ball. These two (2) sports are both high activity team sports and can accommodate moderate to upper level abilities.

This will help young Athletes and Partners get acquainted with Special Olympics Indiana team competitions in a safer and less intimidating manner, while still allowing them to have the full experience of the EKS Games.

This does **NOT** take the place of **Individual Skills Competition**. Lower ability athletes, regardless of their age, who do not possess the cognitive or physical ability to play a team sport, should still register.