



**TO:** Winter Games Heads of Delegation  
**FROM:** Kevin Aders (Winter Games Competition Director)  
**DATE:** December 20, 2022  
**RE:** Winter Games Memo

Thank you for entering your delegation in the 42nd Special Olympics Indiana Winter Games! The information in this memo can be found in our online [Resource Library](#). This information will help you in your preparation for the trip to Lawrenceburg. **Please make sure you read all the material.** The following are lists of items that you will receive either on the website or upon your arrival:

### On the website

- Winter Games Memo
- Winter Games Coaches Handbook
- Perfect North Skiing/Snowboarding/Tubing Waiver (required for all participants)
- Perfect North Rental Agreement (required if using Perfect North equipment)
- Weather Plan

### Packet upon arrival

- Delegation report listing Athletes and Partners
- Bib numbers for athletes (including safety pins)
- Course map
- Lunch coupons
- Contact information for medical personnel
- Equipment rental forms

### Welcome back Athletes from Special Olympics Ohio

We are again hosting a joint Winter Games with Special Olympics Ohio! This will not change the format or operations of the Games. It simply means we will have some new delegations and competitors joining us at the slopes. Since most of you are now Winter Games veterans, please jump in to help the new Ohio delegations with questions they may have in the first year. Let's show our friends and neighbors from Ohio some great Hoosier hospitality!

### Mandatory HOD/Coach Meeting: Tuesday, January 3 at 7pm Eastern

The mandatory HOD/coach meeting will be hosted prior to arriving at the games to give you all more time to plan and make any necessary adjustments. The meeting will take place via Zoom on Tuesday January 3, at 7pm Eastern. At least one coach from each delegation is required to attend. The Zoom details are:

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5233011248?pwd=ULVaOXNNQjd0bnltSUhudHJ3VG1aUT09>

Meeting ID: 523 301 1248

Passcode: 1004



## Helmets

As you all know, a new helmet rule was mandated by Special Olympics, Inc. that took effect 2 years ago for the 2020 Winter Games. Don't forget that all skiers **MUST** wear a helmet that has a sticker stating, "Conform to FIS Specifications RH 2013." This applies to athletes and Unified partners (regardless of the level at which they are competing), as well as coaches who plan on being on skis. We will be checking helmets at all skiing stations before participants start their runs. **No sticker = no start. No exceptions.** Please reach directly out to me if you have any questions. The sticker looks like:



## Perfect North Slopes Waiver & Rental Agreement

Everyone in your delegation must complete the Perfect North waiver including athletes, Unified partners, and coaches. If you are using Perfect North rental equipment, you must also complete the Perfect North Rental Agreement. Both documents should be turned in when arriving at the slopes on Monday.

## Athlete Medical Forms

As a reminder, only athletes that have completed the online application and new medical form are eligible to be entered by a county program into GMS events. The State Staff will continue to provide electronic copies of medical files and have tablets on hand for medical staff in the event we need an athlete medical. **Missing online athlete registrations and medicals will prevent athletes from having GMS profiles and being eligible to compete.**

## Housing Services

Check-in starts at 3:00pm on Sunday, January 8, in the Life Center lobby at Higher Ground. Delegations will receive room assignments for registered athletes, coaches, and chaperones. Please note that the only items that will be provided by Higher Grounds in dorm rooms are bunk beds with mattresses. We encourage all Delegations to bring the following for each athlete, coach, and chaperone:

- Pillow
- Sleeping bag or sheets/blankets
- Toiletries
- Medications
- Shower shoes
- Towels/hand towel/wash cloth



Lodge rooms (if requested and approved) are set-up like a motel. Pillows, blankets, sheets, towels, and washcloths are provided in each room.

**NOTE:** Dorm room sleeping areas are not locked. Please make sure that you do not leave anything of value in the dorm rooms. Higher Ground and Special Olympics Indiana will not be responsible for stolen items.

## **Special Dietary Needs**

For anyone involved in Winter Games who has a food allergy or special dietary need, Higher Ground will need to know so we can accommodate your needs. Please contact Kevin Aders at Special Olympics Indiana (317-328-2010) no later than 10:00am on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

## **Snowshoeing**

A reminder to those delegations bringing athletes to compete in snowshoeing: **it is your responsibility to bring the snowshoes for your athletes/partners.** Perfect North Slopes does not have snowshoes available to rent. Special Olympics Indiana will provide a minimal number of snowshoes as backup.

## **Snow Tubing**

To manage capacity and crowds, Perfect North can no longer include snow tubing with your lift ticket. Snow tubing tickets are an additional \$10 with a valid lift ticket. Snow tubing tickets come with a 2-hour time limit.

## **Fun & Games**

Winter Fest will take place from 3:00pm to 6:00pm on Sunday, January 8, as delegations are arriving at Higher Ground. All delegations, friends, and family members are invited to attend. Some of the activities this year include balloon artist, Homerun Derby, inflatable whack a peg, duck shoot, giant games, and more. Following the opening ceremony on Sunday evening, a dance party will be hosted in the Life Center by the ROD County program. On Monday night, ROD County will host movie night in the Life Center.

## **Cancellation of Winter Games**

If needed, we will make the final decision regarding Winter Games on Thursday, January 5, after 1:00pm. Be sure to keep an eye on the weather and pack your clothes accordingly. You can also check the Perfect North website to look at conditions yourself at [www.perfectnorth.com](http://www.perfectnorth.com). **WE WILL CALL YOU if we must cancel!** If you do NOT hear from our office, the Winter Games are a "GO!" Please limit the calls from you and your coaches. **If we cancel, and you did not choose housing at Higher Ground, it is your responsibility to communicate with your hotel or other accommodation.** Please see Special Olympics Indiana's *Event Policies* for more information on potential event cancellations.



## **Higher Ground Conference and Retreat Center Driving Directions and Information**

For directions and information to Higher Ground Conference and Retreat Center, please use this link [www.hgcrc.org](http://www.hgcrc.org).

## **Perfect North Driving Directions and Information**

For directions and information to Perfect North Slopes, please use this link [www.perfectnorth.com](http://www.perfectnorth.com).

## **Questions/Comments/Concerns**

After reading this memo, should you have any questions, do not hesitate to call our office. Please contact Kevin Aders via phone (317-328-2010) or email ([kaders@soindiana.org](mailto:kaders@soindiana.org)).