

WINTER GAMES

**Special
Olympics**
Indiana



DATES Sunday – Tuesday, January 11-13, 2026

SITES Perfect North Slopes (competition) Higher Ground Conference
19074 Perfect Lane & Retreat Center (housing)
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025 3820 Logan Creek Lane
West Harrison, IN 47060

SPORTS Alpine Skiing
Snowboarding
Snowshoeing

ENTRY DEADLINE Monday, December 8, 2025

ENTRY FEES

- \$140 per person for programs requesting housing
- \$75 per person off campus
- \$12 Additional Sunday Dinner (per person)

The “Off Campus” housing option, in which athletes participate in the Games but are not housed on campus, is available to all County Programs without restriction. County Programs using this option for all or part of their delegation are responsible for making their own housing arrangements and following all procedures ensuring the safety of their athletes.

STATE OFFICE CONTACT Kevin Aders (317) 328-2010 or kaders@soindiana.org

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, January 11 at Higher Ground
3-5 p.m. Registration
3-6 p.m. Winter Fest
6-7:15 p.m. Dinner
7:30-8 p.m. Opening Ceremonies

MONDAY, January 12 at Perfect North Slopes
9 a.m.-noon Practice
2-4:30 p.m. Competition: Preliminary Round (times will vary based on entries)

TUESDAY, January 13 at Perfect North Slopes
10 a.m.-noon Competition: finals (times will vary based on entries)
11 a.m.-2 p.m. Awards Presentations

ENTRY INFORMATION Refer to the Events Policy and Games Management section for more details regarding entry information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. All County Programs will receive an updated listing of athletes who are eligible to compete in Winter Games at the end of November. Athletes who are eligible to compete have completed the Online Registration and Athlete Medical form.
2. No qualification score is necessary prior to entry. Athletes will have the opportunity to compete in preliminaries.
3. Athletes may participate in one (1) sport and only one division (individual or Unified) (Alpine Skiing, Snowboarding, or Snowshoeing). Please consider the following when entering athletes.
 - a. **ALPINE SKIING:** Competitors (athletes and Unified partners) will select a category (Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced) and will be in both events within that category.
 - b. **SNOWBOARDING:** Competitors (athletes and Unified partners) will select a category (Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced) and will be in both events within that category.
 - c. **SNOWSHOEING:** Competitors may select two events.
 - d. If competing as an individual, the athlete’s entry form should be marked with the events. If competing on a Unified Team, provide the team number and use the Team & Relay Form.
4. Individuals and teams will be placed in competitive divisions for the finals by the Winter Games Sports Management Team, according to type and age group. Individuals and teams who are disqualified during their qualifying competition will be placed in the highest division of competition for the finals.



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TRADITIONAL EVENTS

ALPINE SKIING

NOVICE: Glide
Super Glide
INTERMEDIATE: Giant Slalom
Slalom
ADVANCED: Giant Slalom
Slalom

SNOWBOARDING

NOVICE: Glide
Super Glide
INTERMEDIATE: Giant Slalom
Slalom
ADVANCED: Giant Slalom
Slalom

SNOWSHOEING

***order of events in parenthesis
50m Race (3)
100m Race (5)
200m Race (1)

UNIFIED EVENTS

ALPINE SKIING

NOVICE: Glide
Unified Super Glide
INTERMEDIATE: Giant Slalom
Slalom
Giant Slalom
Slalom

SNOWBOARDING

NOVICE: Glide
Unified Super Glide
INTERMEDIATE: Giant Slalom
Slalom
ADVANCED: Giant Slalom
Slalom

SNOWSHOEING

***order of events in parenthesis
Unified 50m Race (4)
Unified 100m Race (6)
Unified 200m Race (2)

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Winter Games shall govern all Special Olympics competitions. Special Olympics has created these rules based upon International Sports Federations (ISF) rules (Alpine Skiing – Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS); Snowshoeing – Special Olympics, Inc.), which shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Alpine Ski, Snowshoeing, and Snowboarding. In cases such as this the following rules will be used.

[Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Alpine Ski](#)

[Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Snowshoeing](#)

[Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Snowboarding](#)

DIVISIONING

1. Qualifying Scores are not required at the time of entry.
2. Athletes will be divisioned based on age, gender, and ability level.
 - a. Age groups will be: 8-15; 16-21; 22 & older.
 - b. There will be 3-6 athletes per division.
 - c. Divisioning by ability is based on the time achieved during the preliminary round of competition.
 - d. There will be no more than a 25% difference between the highest average and the lowest average in the division.
 - e. Age Groups or gender groups may be combined if there are not a minimum of 3 athletes to make up a division.
3. Athletes will not be disqualified for Maximum Effort for any Winter Games sports.

SPORT RULES

UNIFORM SPECIFICATIONS

1. All participants in Winter Games must have a uniform that conforms to the current concept of appropriateness.
2. Dress should enhance and not detract from the skier's technical proficiency.
3. The Winter Games Sport Management Team or sport official shall have authority to bar offenders from competition until they comply with this rule.

GENERAL RULES

1. During competition, if the competitor moves out of the general direction of the line of the course (fall, miss a gate, lose a ski or shoe, etc.), they shall have a two (2) minute time limit to re-enter the course.
 - a. A competitor who fails to adhere to this time limit, or receive assistance of any kind, shall be disqualified.



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2. Whenever possible, electric timing shall be used.
 - a. When this tool is not possible, hand-held timing may be used.
 - b. Gate judges shall be responsible for timing the two (2) minutes for the 2-minute rule (*see above*).
3. The watch or timer is stopped when the tip of the competitor's ski/shoe crosses the finish line.
4. Physically assisting a competitor may result in their disqualification.
5. The competitor must finish with both skis/shoes on.
6. Competitors may NOT crawl during competition.
 - a. They must stand before advancing through the course.

EQUIPMENT

1. The ski area shall provide adequate snow grooming and venue preparation for all events. For deteriorating snow conditions, course maintenance tools will be used and are the responsibility of the ski area.
2. Competition equipment, such as skis, boots, and poles, must pass all appropriate safety guidelines.
3. All competitors must wear competition bibs for both time trials and finals races.
4. All athletes and Unified partners competing in Alpine Skiing or Snowboarding must wear a helmet that meets FIS Equipment Standards during the training and competition.
 - a. They must wear helmets in both time trial and finals competition.
5. The minimum length/rating for a ski is 140.
6. The minimum length for a snowshoe is 25 inches.
 - a. Snowshoes should measure at least 8-inches x 25-inches.
 - b. It is not necessary for snowshoes to have a "tail" providing the snowshoe meets these minimum size standards.
7. Tying the athlete's boot heel to the snowshoe is prohibited: snowshoes cannot be altered in any way.



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SKIING SKILLS ASSESSMENT

The following skill levels and the detailing tasks under each will be used for Alpine Skiing training and competition at the Winter Games. The Winter Experience (Glide Prep) is for beginning skiers (skills can be used for those needing a refresher course from previous years). The Winter Experience (Glide Prep) is not an event, rather a beginning point for training. The first event for this ability group would be Novice Glide.

Glide Prep (Not an event)

- Walks with one (1) ski on in a straight line
- Changes ski to other foot and walk in a straight line
- Walks with both skis in a straight line
- Side-steps on flat ground
- Side-steps up a gentle slope with assistance
- Side-steps up a gentle slope without assistance
- Stands up after falling with assistance
- Refastens skis with assistance
- Stands up independently
- Stands up and refastens skis independently on incline

Novice: Glide

- Glides using a straight run
- Uses gliding wedge
- Uses braking wedge
- Uses braking wedge and stops
- Learns to turn and point skis downhill without moving
- Links wedge turns with different size wedges
- Links wedge turns
- Wedge-turns to the right and stop
- Wedge-turns to the left and stop
- Review braking wedge

Novice: Super Glide

- Reviewing braking wedge
- Review wedge turns
- Introduction to traverses
- Introduction to sideslipping
- Traverses with sideslipping
- Linked-turns with skidded finish
- skis around 3-4 gates (depending upon terrain)

Intermediate: Giant Slalom

- Review sidestepping
- Introduction to wedge garlands
- Introduction to absorbing uneven terrain
- Skis around 3-5 gates (depending upon terrain)
- Learn to ride lift
- Introduction ski poles (REQUIRED)

Intermediate: Slalom

- Review wedge garlands
- Review traverse
- Introduction to linked turns with skidded finish
- Review riding lift
- Learns to match skis at end of turn
- Learns to ski 10 gates
- Learns to ski blue runs
- Introduction to ski polies (REQUIRED)

Advanced: Giant Slalom

- Review linked-turns with skidded finish
- Review matching skis at end of turn
- Review skiing blue runs
- Learns to skate
- Learns to use ski poles
- Introduction to matching skis before the fall-line
- Introduction to linking medium short radius turns
- Introduction to tactics of speed play
- learns to ski 20 to 25 gates

Advanced: Slalom

- Has more physical skills
- Is stronger
- Possesses agility
- Review short swing turns
- Review use of gates
- Review slalom course strategy