

**Special
Olympics
Indiana**



2026 State Basketball Coaches Handbook

March 21 & 22

**Special
Olympics**
Indiana



Thank you to the following groups for making this tournament possible

PACERS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Pacers Sport and Entertainment



Area 1 Management Team



Schedule of Events

Saturday, March 21, 2026

7:45 a.m.	Operation Center Open
8 a.m.	Team Check-In Begins
9 a.m.	Competition Begins Concessions Open Souvenirs Available
Noon	Opening Ceremonies
1 p.m.	Individual Skills
6 p.m.	Competition Ends Operations Center Closed

Sunday, March 22, 2026

8 a.m.	Operations Center Open Team Check-In Begins
9 a.m.	Competition Continues Concessions Open Souvenirs Available
Noon	Opening Ceremonies
3 p.m.	Competition Ends



Tournament Information



Dates: Saturday and Sunday, March 21-22, 2026

Location: Pacers Athletic Center
200 E. 186th Street A
Westfield, IN 46074

Tournament Committee:

Emergency Phone: Operations Center, (317) 328-2011

First Aid: There will be athletic trainers on-site to provide first aid. Additional medical support will be available through 911.

Team Check-in:

1. Team check-in begins at 8 a.m. both days. Please report to the registration table one hour prior to your first scheduled game. The table is located as you enter into the Pacers Athletic Center.
2. Medical forms will not be checked at the tournament. Coaches are encouraged to bring the Medical Report supplied by the State Office. The Tournament Director will have a medical report on site.

Opening Ceremonies and Awards:

1. Opening Ceremonies take place at noon each day on Court 1. Everyone is highly encouraged to attend!
2. There is absolutely no practicing on other courts during Opening Ceremonies.
3. Awards will be presented on the court following each game of the medal round. This includes Team Skills as well.
4. Awards for Individual Skills will be presented following the completion of each division.



Tournament Information (cont.)



Competition Reminders:

1. All games and basketball activities will be run in accordance with the National Federation of State High School Associations rules and Special Olympics Indiana basketball rules and regulations.
2. Lineup cards should be completed and presented to the scorers table at least 10 minutes prior to a game.
3. If a team is not at its assigned court within five (5) minutes after the official start time, the offending team will forfeit the game.
4. Basketballs will not be provided for warm-ups. Teams should supply their own basketballs for pregame activities.
5. There will not be a designated warm-up court. However, if there is an empty court available, you can use that to warm up, unless it is during Opening Ceremonies. No play shall occur during Opening Ceremonies.
6. Each team will get a minimum of two games.

Facility:

1. Teams may sit in the stands around a court or in the upstairs mezzanine area between games or when waiting for a game to start.
2. There will be a changing area in the men's and women's restroom for the athletes to change.
3. There is plenty of parking in front of the Pacers Athletic Center.

Coaches Meeting

1. There will be a coaches meeting on Teams on Thursday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. ET. [Click here to access the meeting.](#)



Tournament Information (cont.)



Rule Highlights:

1. Special Olympics follows the National Federation of State High School Association rules, which shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Basketball. Coaches will be responsible for knowing the NFHS rules and the Special Olympics basketball rules.
2. Undershirts may be worn but must be one of the following: the same color as the primary color of the jersey, all white or all black.
3. No jewelry. This includes any hard headphones.
4. Timing:
 - For 5-on-5 there are 4 quarters, 6 minutes per quarter.
 - For 3-on-3, games are 20 minutes or until one team reaches 20 points.
5. Mercy rule for 5-on-5: If team leads by 20 or more points after halftime, there will be a running clock for the rest of the game. The clock will only stop on timeouts and until first free throw is taken.
6. Each team is entitled to three (3) 60-second timeouts and two (2) 30-second time outs per game.
7. For Unified competition, line-ups shall never exceed three athletes and two Unified partners.
8. In Unified Sports games, the partners must not score more than 75% of the team's total points, and the athletes must not score more than 75% of the team's total points. Thus, in a game, the athletes as a group and the partners as a group must each score at least 25% of the total points scored. **Failure to adhere to the required ratio will result in a forfeit.**
9. For 3-on-3, all throw-ins happen from half-court.
10. For 3-on-3, players must take the ball behind 3-point line with both feet on possession change.
11. For 3-on-3, the defense must stay behind the free throw line extended until the ball has been touched by the offense.
12. If a team reaches 20 points prior to the 15-minute mark, play will continue until 15 minutes has been completed.
13. For all teams, only the head coach can stand during play. This is a NHFS rule. This also informs the officials who is eligible to call a timeout from the bench during a live ball.



Tournament Information (cont.)



Individual Skills

1. Check-in for Skills is at the same table as Team check-in. At check-in, you will receive your athlete labels.
2. We will not be checking medicals at skills check-in. We will have a medical report on-site, and we encourage coaches to bring their county's medical report as well.
3. There will be two stations for each skill. We will continue to call divisions to staging as they finish, so we ask that all skills athletes stay near Court 4 to listen to the division being called at staging.
4. Divisions F01 - F05 will report to staging at 1 p.m. Divisions F06 - M02 will report to staging at 1:30 p.m. Divisions M03 - M07 will report to staging at 2 p.m. Divisions M08- M12 will report to staging at 2:30 p.m. Divisions M13 - M17 will report to staging at 3 p.m.
5. Awards will be given after the conclusion of each division, pending volunteer help.
6. Parents and coaches are prohibited from entering the competition area. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis for athletes who require assistance. You must get permission from the Skills Competition Manager. If approved, only one parent or coach will be allowed to escort the athlete to each station.

Team Skills

1. Check-in for Team Skills is at the same table as Team and Individual Skills check in.
2. All Team Skills competition will be on court 4.
3. Awards for Team Skills will occur on court immediately follow the team's last game.



Tournament Information (cont.)



Souvenirs:

1. Souvenirs will be available to buy throughout the event.

Raffle Ticket Pick Up

1. If your county is participating in the Raffle, you can pick up your tickets at a table near check in.

Live Bracket Updates:

1. The brackets and schedules will be uploaded to the Basketball page of our website. <https://soindiana.org/basketball>. Throughout the tournament, we will be updating the brackets online after each game. QR Codes will be posted throughout the facility to take you directly to this live brackets. We also will continue to have brackets posted. This year, they will be upstairs near the operations center.

Concession and Food:

1. Concessions are available from the venue, and you are also free to leave to grab a bite to eat.
2. Restaurants nearby (within 10-15 minutes):

Burger King
Chick-Fil-A**
Chipotle**
Dairy Queen
Denny's
Dunkin' Donuts
Freddy's
Grindstone on the Monon **
Jimmy Johns **
KFC
Los Agaves **
McDonald's

Penn Station
Portillo's
Saladworks **
Starbucks
Subway**
Taco Bell
Tropical Smoothie Café **
Wendy's

** Healthier options



Pacers Athletic Center Facility Map



State Basketball Tournament
Facility Layout - Pacers Athletic Center



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