



2025 FALL CLASSIC

Special Olympics
Iowa



HANDBOOK



On behalf of the state office staff, welcome to the 2025 Special Olympics Iowa Fall Classic. We look forward to an exciting & memorable competition for the over 400 athletes & Unified partners, coaches, chaperones, family members & volunteers coming to West Des Moines for competition in Equestrian, Flag Football, Pickleball, & Volleyball.

This handbook is designed to provide you with the information necessary to best manage your participation in the Fall Classic. Please review the information in detail & share the handbook with members of your delegation as well as family members attending the event. Please contact Special Olympics Iowa at (515) 986-5520 or info@soiowa.org if you have any questions.

Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to seeing you at the SOIA Fall Classic.



2025 Special Olympics Iowa Fall Classic

Schedule of Events



Thursday, September 25th		
8:00 am – 1:00 pm	Delegation Registration - for delegations (Athletes & Unified Partners)	MidAmerican RecPlex Lobby
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Team Flag Football Competition	MidAmerican RecPlex Outdoor Fields
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Pickleball Singles Competition	MidAmerican RecPlex, Pickleball Courts
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Flag Football Skills Competition	MidAmerican RecPlex Outdoor Fields
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	USA Games Uniform Fitting (Team Iowa Only)	MidAmerican RecPlex, Community Room
12:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Souvenir Sales	MidAmerican RecPlex, Field Turf Area
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Parade of Athletes Line Up	MidAmerican RecPlex, Hy-Vee Fieldhouse Hardwood Courts
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Opening Festival	MidAmerican RecPlex, Field Turf Area

Friday, September 26th		
8:00 am – 11:00 am	Delegation Registration - for ALL delegations (Athletes & Unified Partners)	MidAmerican RecPlex Lobby
9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Souvenir Sales	MidAmerican RecPlex, Field Turf Area
9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Olympic Festival	MidAmerican RecPlex, Field Turf Area
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	USA Games Uniform Fitting (Team Iowa Only)	MidAmerican RecPlex, Community Room
9:00 am – 11:30 am	Pickleball Skills Competition	MidAmerican RecPlex, Pickleball Courts
9:00 am – 3:30 pm	Pickleball Doubles Competition	MidAmerican RecPlex, Pickleball Courts
10:00 am – 2:30 pm	Team Volleyball Competition	MidAmerican RecPlex, Hy-Vee Fieldhouse Hardwood Courts
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Volleyball Skills Competition	MidAmerican RecPlex, Hy-Vee Fieldhouse Hardwood Courts

Saturday, September 27th		
9:00am -10:00 am	Delegation Registration - for all Equestrian delegations	Menagerie Stables LLC. at 3237 NE 108 th St, Mitchellville, IA 50169
10:00 am	Equestrian Competition	Menagerie Stables LLC. at 3237 NE 108 th St, Mitchellville, IA 50169

General Information

Delegation Packets & Room Key Pick-Up

Room keys for all hotels will be distributed at your designated hotel on Thursday, September 25th from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Delegation packets should be picked up on Thursday, September 25th at MidAmerican Rec Plex. Please pick up room keys at the front desk. Please ensure that everyone from your delegation knows who is registering the delegation & where they are to meet to pick up their registration materials.

Please contact Special Olympics Iowa at info@soiowa.org or (515) 986-5520 to make alternate arrangements.

Delegation registration packets include:

- Bib #'s for Equestrian & nametags for skills athletes
- Team Rosters
- Schedule of events
- Map of venue

Housing

Delegations that requested housing have been assigned to stay at one of the Special Olympics Iowa Fall Classic Hotels. Family members may make their own reservations at the hotels but may NOT utilize the block of rooms designated to Special Olympics Iowa. The block of rooms can only be utilized by the state office.

• Courtyard Des Moines West/Clive	1520 NW 114 th St, Clive, IA 50325	515-225-1222
• Fairfield Inn & Suites Des Moines West	7225 Vista Dr, West Des Moines, IA 50266	515-225-6100
• Sheraton West Des Moines	1800 50 th St, West Des Moines, IA 50266	515-223-1800
• Wildwood Lodge Clive	11431 Forest Ave, Clive, IA 50325	515-222-9876

Special Olympics Iowa will only pay for rooms for delegations that completed the appropriate housing registration form. Any phone calls, movie rentals or other incidentals are the responsibility of the delegation assigned to the room. We have made arrangements at all hotels to provide breakfast for the group.

Meals & Opening Festival

Special Olympics Iowa will provide lunch Thursday/Friday & dinner Thursday for registered athletes, coaches, & chaperones. The Thursday evening meal will be held at the MidAmerican RecPlex at 6500 Grand Ave, West Des Moines, IA 50266 following the opening festival. The Opening Festival will include a parade of athletes starting at 4:30 pm, along with lighting of the cauldron. Following the program will be Meal, & Festival type activities.

Due to meal count guarantee requirements, we are unable to sell meal tickets on the day of the meal.

Meal Menu

Pasta Noodles
Meat Sauce
Alfredo Sauce
Garlic Breadsticks
Salad
Cookie
Bottled water

Lunch Menu

Sandwich
Baked Chips
Fruit
Bottled water

Concessions

Concessions will be available at the venue locations. Please bring water bottles to the events for athletes, coaches, chaperones, & spectators. Family members & spectators may want to bring snacks & water with them. These items can be brought to the lunch area at the venues.

Medical Coverage

Emergency Information: Each Special Olympics coach needs to bring pertinent medical information for each athlete. This should include the coaches' copy of medical release/parent/guardian consent forms.

First Aid volunteers will provide on-site medical coverage at the venue sites on Thursday & Friday.

Competition Age Groups & Divisions

Special Olympics Iowa follows the guidelines provided by Special Olympics International for divisioning competition at the Fall Classic. In order to provide meaningful, quality competition opportunities for our athletes, we combined where necessary genders in all skills competition. Our guidelines for divisioning state that ability should be the primary consideration for divisioning.

Lost & Found

Lost & Found will be located at Delegation/Volunteer Registration at each venue.

Coach Responsibilities

Coaches attending the Special Olympics Iowa Fall Classic are asked to accept & carry out the following responsibilities:

- Provide for the general welfare, safety, health, & well-being of each Special Olympics athlete in their charge
- Familiarize themselves with the information in this handbook
- Provide supervision for athletes as necessary
- Assistance to athletes in getting to all meals at appointed times
- Ensure that athletes report to competition venues on time
- Ensure that medical & prescribed medications protocols are followed
- Ensure that athletes are properly attired for competition, hotel breakfast & special events
- Report all emergencies to appropriate authorities after taking immediate action to insure the health & safety of participants
- Be courteous & professional in all dealings with volunteers.
- Always carry a copy of the athlete's medical release with you at practices & competitions

Competition Sites

MidAmerican RecPlex; 6500 Grand Ave, West Des Moines, IA: (515) 440-4820

Flag Football, Pickleball & Volleyball

Menagerie Stables LLC.; 3237 NE 108th St, Mitchellville, IA

Equestrian

Special Olympics Iowa Emergency Management Plan

In the event of an emergency situation, (bus accident, hotel fire, athlete/coach/volunteer death, etc.) we must be ready to act. Specific assignments, in order to acquire & disseminate information & data, will be necessary in order for us to make necessary decisions. Communication among ourselves is vital in order for us to manage the situation, rather than just be reactionary. With that as a preface, the following is our initial plan for managing an emergency situation:

Step One - Whoever receives the phone call or message or witnesses an emergency or potential emergency, should determine whether or not the proper authorities (e.g., police, rescue squad, fire department, etc.) have been notified. Our first objective is to prevent further injury & give the necessary treatment to those who are injured.

Step Two - If an emergency should occur at a venue, the Event Director should be located & directed to the scene. The Event Director should notify John Kliegl at 515-418-7339.

Event Directors / SOIA Staff:

Equestrian: Katie Wiese

Flag Football: Katie Wiese

Pickleball: Sydney Sloan

Volleyball: Kirsten Selsor

If an emergency should occur on the way to or from an event, please notify John Kliegl at 515-418-7339. We ask that you direct all media inquiries & representatives to John Kliegl, Special Olympics Iowa President, & CEO.

Fall Classic Souvenir Sales

Thursday, September 25

12:00 pm - 7:30 pm

MidAmerican RecPlex

Friday, September 26

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

MidAmerican RecPlex

We accept cash, check, Venmo or credit cards.

Checks should be made out to Special Olympics Iowa.

Competition Schedules

Competition Schedules will be updated on our Fall Classic page. Please note that these schedules are subject to change and should be checked periodically prior to competition. To view schedules, visit our website:

<https://www.soiowa.org/competitions/statewide-competitions/fall-classic/>





Special Olympics Iowa thanks the following individuals, groups, & organizations for their contributions to the success of the 2025 Special Olympics Iowa Fall Classic, & for their support of more than 10,000 Athletes & Unified partners across the state. Without the support of these generous individuals & organizations Special Olympics Iowa would not be able to offer the quantity & quality of events we do for our athletes, coaches, families, & volunteers.

2025 Fall Classic
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