

2021 State Tennis Event Handbook



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Hello,

Congratulations and welcome to the 2021 Special Olympics Illinois Tennis Tournament! The staff of Special Olympics Illinois extend their best wishes for your athletes' success at this year's tournament. **State Tennis is a one-day competition in 2021 due to lower participation numbers.**

This handbook is designed to answer as many of your questions as possible and make your trip to the tournament an enjoyable experience. Instructions for registration, meals, Opening Ceremonies, medical assistance, a tentative schedule of events and other general information are contained in this handbook. Please make sure to read the handbook carefully since there have been changes made from last year.

During the tournament, please take time to thank the many volunteers who make this competition the success that it is. Also, take a moment to thank the staff at Evergreen Racquet Club for being a part of the Special Olympics Illinois Tennis Tournament.

Good luck,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Nate Henry".

Nate Henry
Director of State Championships



**Special
Olympics**
Illinois

2021 Tennis Tournament Coaches Handbook

Table of Contents

Competition Information

2021 Tentative Schedule of Events	1
Coach’s Responsibilities.....	2
Spectator & COVID Code of Conduct Requirements	3
Registration.....	4
Tennis Facilities	4
Competition Brackets	5-6
Match Play Tennis.....	6
Individuals Skills Competition	6
Disqualification	6
Filing Protests/Awards/Results.....	7

Meals	8
--------------------	----------

Medical Information	8
----------------------------------	----------

COVID Vaccine, PPE & Attendance for High Risk Individuals	8
--	----------

Activities/Entertainment

Opening Ceremony	9
Souvenirs.....	9

Families/Guests

Guest/Family Meals.....	9
Family Program	9

Safety

Water Safety Policy.....	10
--------------------------	----

Emergency Phone Numbers.....	10
-------------------------------------	-----------

Maps

Evergreen Racquet Club	11-12
Bloomington	13

**Tentative Schedule of Events
2021 Special Olympics Illinois
Tennis Tournament**

Saturday, August 14, 2021

7:30am - 10:00am	Tennis Registration
7:30am - 8:00am	Warm up for Competition
7:30 am	Level 2 and 5 Match Play Coaches Meeting
8:00am-8:30am	Opening Ceremony
8:00am - 12:00pm	Family Information and Registration Area Open
8:30 am - Noon	Tennis Singles Match Play Competition (1 st round) Tennis Doubles Match Play Competition (1 st round)
8:30am	Individual Skills Coaches Meeting
9:00 am – 11:00 a.m.	Tennis Individual Skills Competition
11:00 am - 1:30pm	Lunch
12:30pm - 5:00pm	Tennis Doubles Match Play Competition (1 st and 2 nd round) & Tennis Singles Match Play Competition (1 st and 2 nd round)
3:30 pm-5:00pm	Boxed Dinner provided to all athletes and coaches

Coach's Responsibilities

It is important that coaches are adequately prepared to supervise their athletes for an extended period of time.

1. The coach is responsible for the athletes 24 hours a day. It is up to the coach to ensure the athletes' physical and emotional needs are met during the tournament.
 - a. Be sure athletes are properly warmed up prior to competition.
 - b. Make sure needed first aid is administered promptly. Bring a first aid kit if possible to deal with minor problems not needing professional attention.
 - c. Be sure athletes get adequate rest.
 - d. Make sure athletes eat properly and avoid overeating or missing meals.
NOTE: If an athlete requires a special diet, it is the responsibility of the coach to provide for the athlete's needs. For special diets, bring a cooler with all the proper foods and snacks for athletes who need to eat at a specific time.
2. Each coach should be aware of the athlete's possessions. Check for lost items at Tournament Central.
3. The coach is expected to be totally familiar with the medical conditions, precautions and medication requirements of the athletes. It is the coach's responsibility to administer medication. Knowledge of the medication regimen (what, how much and when) is essential.
4. The coach is required to carry a copy of the valid Application for Participation for each athlete at all times.
5. The coach must be totally familiar with all schedules. Make sure that the athletes are on time for their games or events so they do not miss the opportunity to compete.
6. The coach is expected to be familiar with sports rules.
7. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED. Agencies breaking alcohol use rules will be disciplined by Special Olympics Illinois.
8. SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED AT THE VENUE SITES. Smoking is not permitted on Evergreen Racquet Club property.
9. Communicate with families of the athletes. Inform them of the upcoming tournament and encourage them to attend the Special Olympics Illinois Tennis Tournament.

Spectator Attendance & Codes of Conduct

Spectators are allowed to attend the 2021 State Tennis Tournament if they sign the COVID Code of Conduct Form. Spectators are encouraged to complete the form on-line using this link: <https://www.soill.org/event-spectators/> . Spectator access to the facility will be monitored to ensure all spectators have signed the COVID Code of Conduct. Those unwilling to sign the form will not be granted access to the facility.

Spectator Code of Conduct (This is different than the COVID Code of Conduct)

As fans (family, friends and supporters) of Special Olympics athletes, it is expected that everyone will play a positive role at Special Olympics Illinois events by following these codes for conduct:

1. Refrain from using abusive or offensive language towards anyone: officials, coaches, opponents and fellow spectators.
2. Remember that athletes are amateur athletes and the coaches and officials are volunteers.
3. An understanding of the rules may lead to a more positive experience at the event. All Special Olympics Illinois sports follow the designated National Governing Body (NGB) rules and any exceptions or modifications to those rules are included in the Special Olympics Illinois Rules Interpretations for the sport. A list of the designated NGB rules and the Rules Interpretations can be found at www.soill.org in the coach section.
4. Keep in mind the Special Olympics oath and remember that winning is not the emphasis of Special Olympics competition.
5. Coaches should be the ones to do the coaching. Please refrain from shouting instructions to athletes.
6. Spectators and fans are prohibited in the competition areas. Only registered coaches, athletes and officials should be in the playing area.
7. ALL CHEERS should be positive and display good sportsmanship. Derogatory comments directed to players, coaches and officials will not be tolerated.
8. Follow instructions or directives given by officials, volunteers or Special Olympics Illinois staff.
9. Special Olympics Illinois has a no tolerance policy to physical altercations involving coaches, athletes, unified partners, volunteers, spectators, family members, etc.

Any spectator who fails to follow directives given by volunteers, officials or Special Olympics Illinois staff or does not adhere to the code of conduct items above will be reprimanded. A reprimand could include one of the following:

- Will be escorted from the venue;
- Will be banned from attending future events for a given period of time;
- Will be permanently banned from attending any Special Olympics Illinois event.

Registration for Agencies

Evergreen Racquet Club
7:30am – 10:00am

1. Only the Head Coach should report to the registration area and bring a state or federal issued photo ID.
 2. Verify numbers of coaches and athletes who are actually attending the tournament. The Head Coach will either agree to verify the identity of all of his/her agency coaches/chaperones or these individuals will be required to present their photo ID for verification.
 3. Report the names of those registered as of Scratch Deadline but are unable to attend (no shows). No mementos or meal tickets will be issued in the name of “no show” athletes, coaches or unified partners.
 4. The Head Coach must count meal tickets and mementos at the registration table to be certain adequate numbers have been included in the packet.
 5. Receive the tournament Coach’s Packet containing:
 - a. Computer printout listing your agency’s athletes and their divisions.
 - b. Meal tickets for athletes, coaches and unified partners.
 - c. Tournament mementos for athletes, coaches and unified partners.
 - d. Tournament Information.
- * If your agency is scheduled for a later competition time, you can register closer to your scheduled game time. Please allow at least a half-hour to register and be ready for competition.

Tennis Facilities

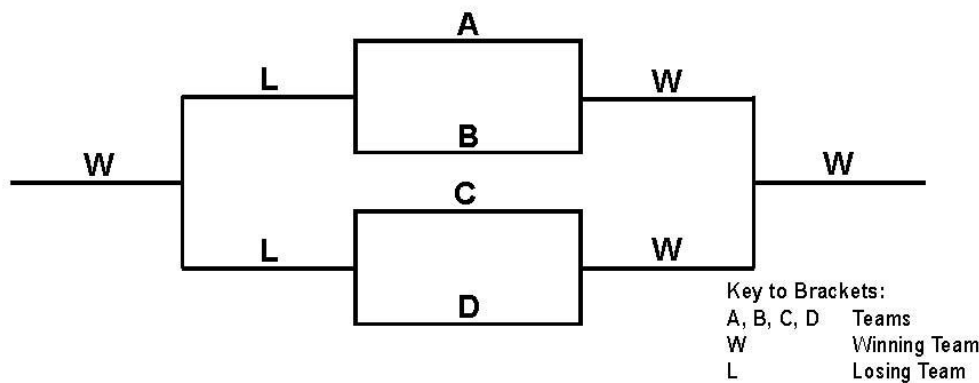
The tennis competition will be conducted at Evergreen Racquet Club in Bloomington. All events including individual skills, match play (singles and doubles) and unified competition will be conducted at the racquet club. Skills competition will be held on Saturday, August 18th and match play singles, doubles, and unified play will be on Saturday. Evergreen has indoor and outdoor courts. If there is inclement weather competition will be moved indoors and the schedule will be modified to accommodate this change. If this change is needed, coaches will be sent information regarding the schedule changes.

For text alerts during the event please text “Evergreen” to 844-393-0980.

Competition Brackets

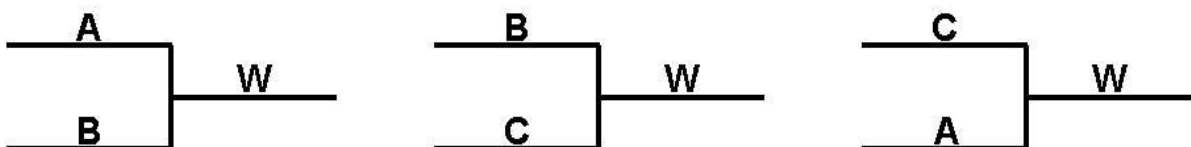
Competition brackets indicating divisions and game times will be available to agency coaches prior to the tournament. The goal of Special Olympics Illinois is to create four person divisions whenever possible for state tournament play. In some cases, divisions of two or three athletes must be designed in order to provide appropriate competition at the state tournament. In such cases, special rules apply so that each athlete is given a fair and equal opportunity to achieve success. The following explanation covers all bracketing procedures to be employed by Special Olympics Illinois for tournament play.

Four Team Divisions: In a four-person bracket, each athlete plays twice. Athletes that win first round games move to the right side of the bracket, and athletes that lose first round games move to the left side of the bracket. The two winning athletes then play for 1st and 2nd place; the losing athletes play for 3rd and 4th place.



Three Team Divisions: All play is round robin style. In these divisions, three games will be played with athletes competing twice. The athlete with the best record at the end of the three games will receive first place. If all three athletes win one game and lose one game, places of finish will be determined:

1. By the point differential in the games played during the tournament.
2. If the point differential is the same, by the total points scored by each athlete during the tournament (highest scoring team receives first place).
3. If point differential and point totals are the same, places of finish will be determined by the highest number of service aces.



Two Team Divisions: All play is best two of three games. Athletes will be given adequate time to rest between games and should a division go to a third game, the final game will be highlighted for its championship status. In two person divisions, first round games will be played on one day with second round games played the following morning and third round games, if necessary, played late in the afternoon.



Match Play Tennis Competition

Athletes/partners competing in match play competition are required to wear appropriate attire. This includes athletic shoes and athletic clothing. Athletes will not be allowed to compete in jeans or jean shorts. **During the 2021 state tennis event, athletes should be prepared to potentially play matches both indoors and outdoors if the weather allows.**

Individual Skills Competition

Tennis Individual Skills Competition will be held at Evergreen Racquet Club on Saturday, August 14th, beginning at 9:00am. Athletes are divisioned based on their Region qualifying score. The place of finish is determined by the athlete's final score at the state tournament. Athletes competing in Tennis Skills are required to wear appropriate athletic attire. Athletes will not be allowed to compete in jeans or jean shorts.

Disqualification of Athletes

Disqualifications will be handled in accordance with Special Olympics Illinois' Disqualification Process:

1. It is the coach's responsibility to be aware of disqualifications at all times. Event officials will be signaled of infractions by course judges. Event officials will not announce disqualifications to the general audience.
 2. Disqualified athletes will be given notice of the rule infraction upon completion of the event.
 3. A Competition Rules Committee will be available to hear questions concerning disqualified athletes.
 4. Awards will be presented upon completion of the event which includes: running of the event; notice of disqualification if necessary; appeal of disqualification if brought forth; and final decision of Competition Rules Committee.
 5. Decisions of the Competition Rules Committee will be final and binding.
 6. Disqualified athletes will receive a participation ribbon. An athlete who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct will not receive a participation ribbon.
- A team found using an ineligible or illegal player will forfeit all awards.

7. No disqualification protest will be heard once awards have been completed.

6

Sport Coaches Filing Protests

1. Protests to the Games Rules Committee may be made concerning only Games presentation, structure and conduct.
2. Protests to the Competition Rules Committee may be made concerning only competition of athletes within a venue, where within that competition; rulings are either made or not made in regard to fairness and equity of competition. Procedural or technical issues may be protested. Judgment calls made by the official may not.
3. Protests must be presented by the Sport Head Coach to the Head Official of the event immediately in an oral fashion so that other event officials may be made aware of the appeal. Any verbal protests must be made prior to the presentation of awards. (All awards for the division in question will be held until a resolution of the protest.)
4. If the awards presentation has taken place the sport coach has 30 minutes after the awards presentation to file a protest. A corrected awards presentation will be made to that athlete if needed.
5. The Head Official may rule immediately on appeals. If the response of the Head Official does not resolve the protest, a formal protest may follow.
6. All formal protests must be made by the Sport Head Coach within 30 minutes of the event being protested.
7. All formal protests must be made on the specified form obtained from the Head Official.
8. All protests will be brought to the Competition Rules Committee for a final resolution. The decision of this committee shall be final and binding unless this committee concludes that the protest concerns Games presentation, structure or conduct, and refers the protest to the Games Rules Committee.

Athlete Awards

Awards will take place immediately following completion of competition in each division. In case of protests, awards for the division in question will be presented once the protest is adjudicated by the Rules Committee. Medals will be awarded to all athletes who finish first, second or third and ribbons will be awarded to 4-8 place finishers. In cases of disqualification, athletes will receive a participation ribbon. Please do not delay awards presentations for picture taking. In cases of ties, awards will be presented using the Olympic format, i.e., 1st, 2nd, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th.

Results from Competition

Special Olympics Illinois will post the results to the website at www.soill.org after the Tournament. Go to the Results Table to secure an athlete's score or place of finish; do not ask event officials or awards presenters; this will delay the process of presenting awards to Special Olympics athletes.

Meals for Athletes and Coaches

Outback Steakhouse will provide lunch on Saturday outside in the parking lot at Evergreen and Saturday evening's dinner will be given out starting at 3:30 pm at Evergreen Racquet Club.

If an athlete requires a special diet, it is the responsibility of the coach to provide for the athlete's needs. Provisions for special dietary needs of athletes/partners or coaches cannot be made by Special Olympics Illinois. For special diets, bring a cooler with all the proper foods and snacks for athletes who need to eat a specific meal.

Medical Information for Athletes and Coaches

Trained medical personnel will be at the competition site during the weekend.

Special Olympics Illinois has an accident insurance policy which provides secondary coverage for all athletes, coaches and volunteers. This is provided as backup coverage to your personal insurance. Accident claim forms will be available at Medical Stations or Tournament Central.

Coaches **MUST** carry a copy of each athlete's current Special Olympics Illinois Application for Participation with them at all times.

COVID Vaccines, PPE & Attendance by Individuals who are High Risk

Even with the vaccine, there is no way of completely eliminating the risk of infection. Please review the High Risk Fact Sheet in the Resource Section of the State Tennis Website Page to assist in determine risks you may face by attending in-person activities.

Special Olympics Illinois does not require participants to be vaccinated to attend in-person events nor will the vaccination history of participants be tracked. **Unless fully vaccinated, participants who are medically able should continue to wear a mask.** Participants do not have to wear a mask during active exercise. Participants or agencies must provide masks and other needed PPE. Special Olympics Illinois will not provide masks. Hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes/spray and other cleaning/sanitizing products will be provided on-site.

Spectators with Mobility Issues

If a spectator has a mobility restriction, please see the tennis court assigner located at Tournament Central when the athlete is checking in. This process will help ensure the athlete can be placed on one of two courts assigned for easy viewing for spectators with mobility restrictions (courts 3 and 4).

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony will begin at 8:00 am at Evergreen Racquet Club on Saturday. There will be a parade of athletes and all other components of a typical Opening Ceremony.

Evening entertainment for athletes is canceled in 2021, but SOILL is planning that it will return in 2022.

Souvenirs

Souvenirs are available by pre-order only. Ordering information will be shared soon and also made available on the State Tennis Tournament website page. Orders will be available for pick-up at the tournament. If you are unable to pick-up your items at the event then you can pay to have them shipped to you.

Souvenir items are offered by Minerva Promotions and a percentage of sales are given to Special Olympics Illinois.

Families

The family registration and information area, located next to the souvenirs, will be open on Saturday from 8:00am until noon. All families are encouraged to stop by for a free raffle ticket for some cool SOILL swag and to let us know you're here.

Guest/Family Meals

There will be no food truck serving meals this year at Evergreen Racquet Club. Evergreen Racquet Club will have a small amount of concessions to purchase food & drink. **There are a variety of restaurants in the Bloomington area. Information about area restaurants will be available at the Family Center (see above). Meals will be provided only to registered athletes and coaches.**

Water Safety Policy

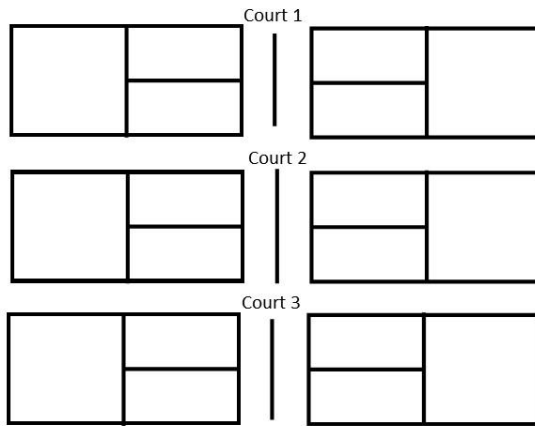
All Special Olympics Illinois swimming training, competition and recreational sessions shall be conducted in accordance with basic safety practices as specified in the Sports Rules Book, Section C of the swimming section. Briefly, this policy specifies that in all swimming activities, there must be a certified lifeguard on duty while Special Olympics Illinois athletes are in the water. This policy is in place for training and competition as well as recreational aquatic activities off-site, such as use of a hotel pool.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

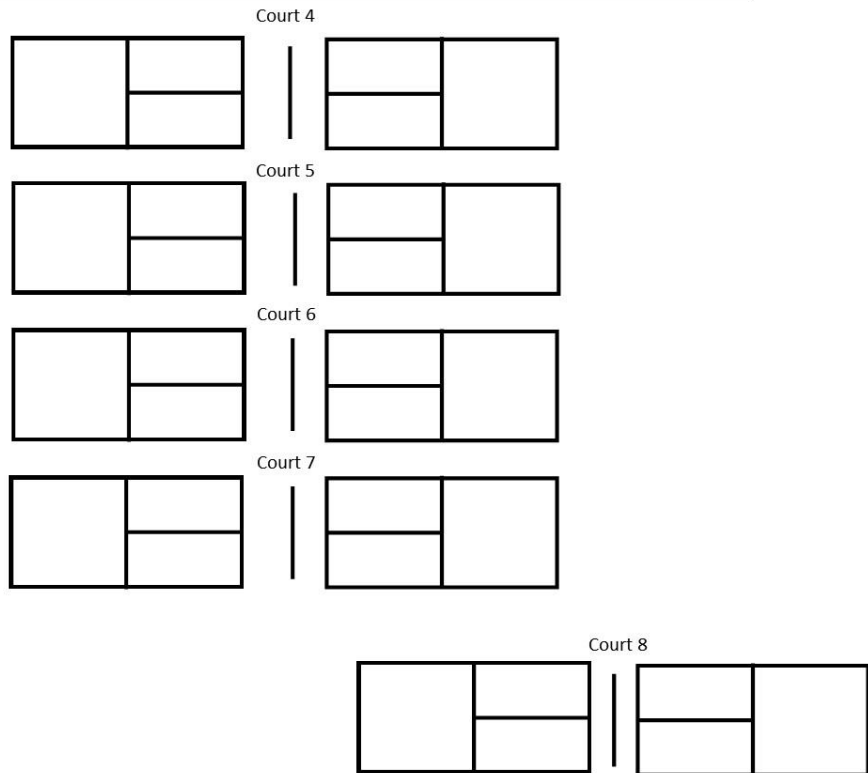
Tournament Central	309-825-9747
Fire Department - Non-emergency	309-434-2859 (or 911)
Police Department - Non-emergency	309-820-8888 (or 911)
OSF St. Joseph Medical Center	309-662-3311
Carle BroMenn Medical Center	309-454-1400

Evergreen Racquet Club

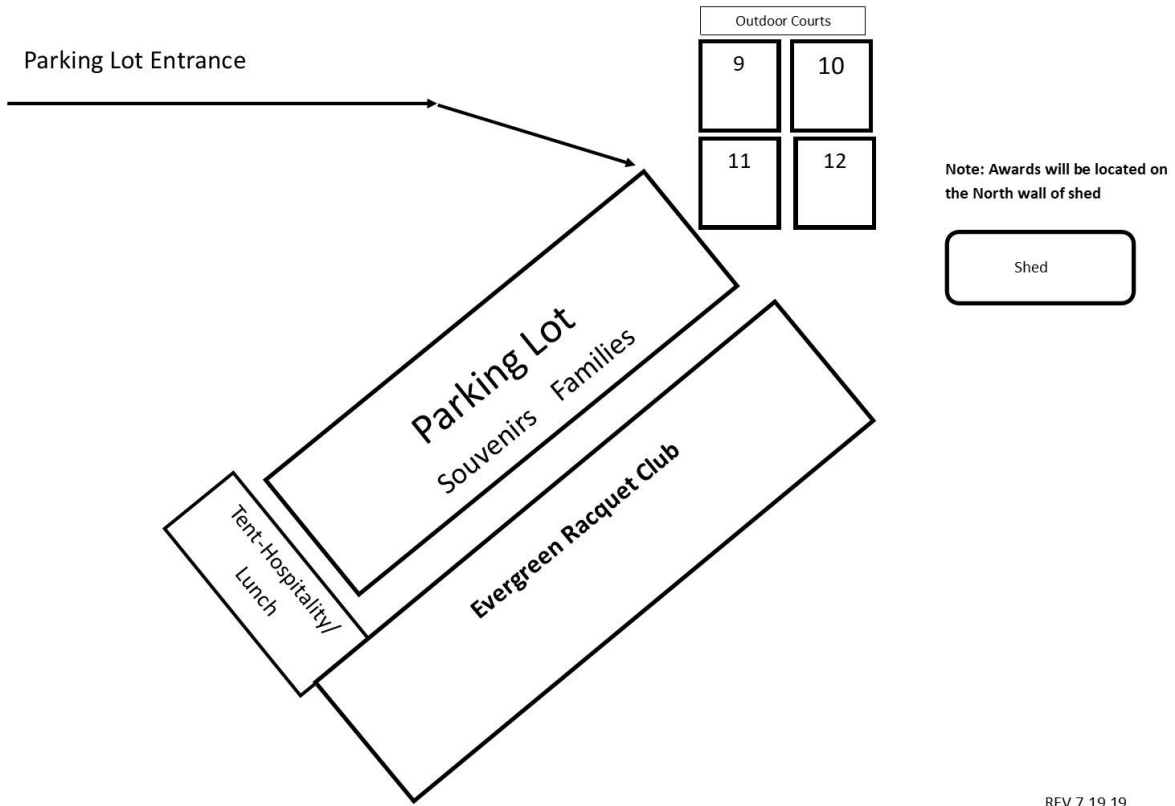
State Tennis Evergreen



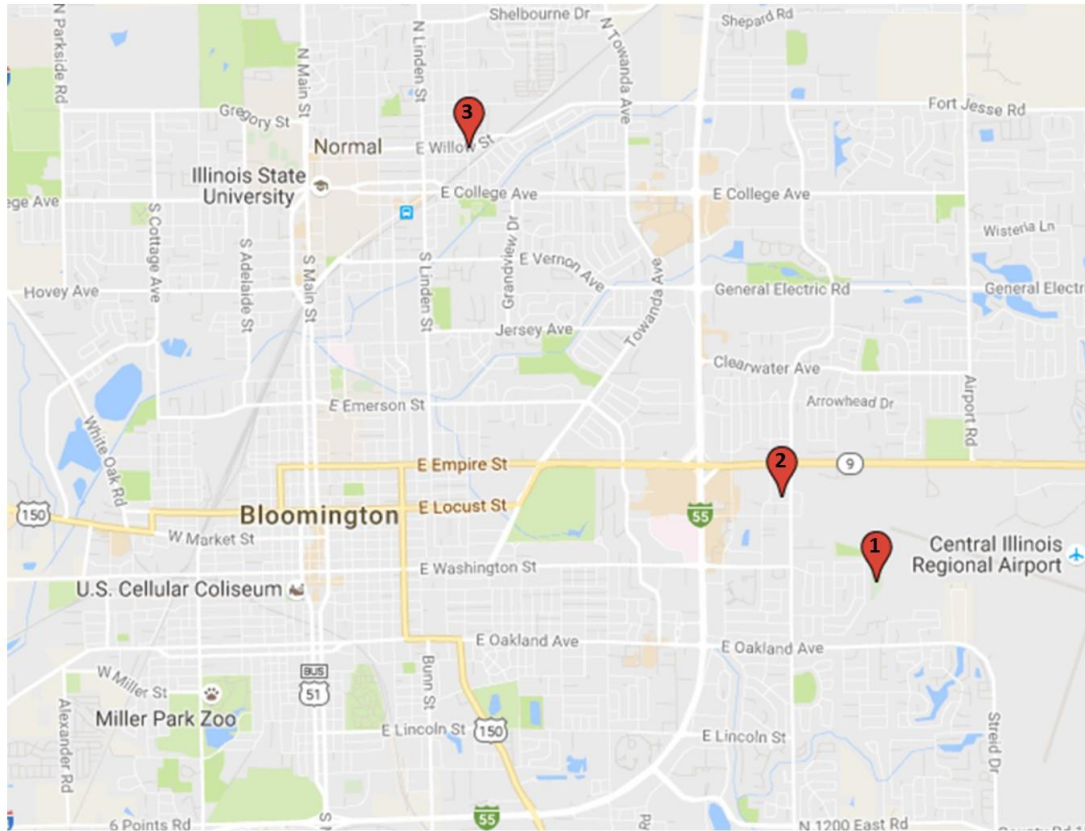
1st Floor: Lobby, Athlete Staging
2nd Floor: Spectator Viewing, Tournament Central



Evergreen Racquet Club Outdoor



Bloomington Area Map



1. Evergreen Racquet Club
3203 E Washington St,
Bloomington, IL 61704

**2. Pheasant Lanes Bowling
(Saturday Night Entertainment)**
804 N Hershey Rd,
Bloomington, IL 61704

**3. Special Olympics Illinois Headquarters
(Tribute Park)**
605 E Willow St

Normal, IL 61761

13

**Let me win.
But if I cannot win,
Let me be brave in the attempt.**

Special Olympics Illinois
State Headquarters
605 East Willow Street
Normal, IL 61761-2682
309-888-2551

Special Olympics Illinois
Northern Office
500 Waters Edge, Ste. 100
Lombard, IL 60148
630-942-5610

Special Olympics Illinois
Southern Regional Office
1318 Mercantile Drive
Highland, IL 62249
618-654-6680

www.soill.org



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