

2021 STATE GOLF EVENT HANDBOOK



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2021 State Golf Tournament Sponsors**

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Contact Telephone Numbers

St. Mary's Hospital	217-464-2966
Decatur Memorial Hospital	217-872-608 / 217-876-8121
Fire Department - Non-emergency	217-429-5201
Police Department - Non-emergency	217-424-2711
Fire / Police - Emergency	911
Hickory Point Golf Course	217-421-7444

Event Status Updates

In case of inclement weather, check the website at www.soill.org for schedule changes or cancellations. Please visit the State Golf Tournament page on the website the week before the tournament to find a number to text to receive all event status updates and weather alerts.

<https://www.soill.org/blog/events/2021-state-golf-tournament/>

Hello,

Congratulations and welcome to the 2021 Special Olympics Illinois State Golf Tournament! The staff of Special Olympics Illinois and the State Golf Tournament Committee extend their best wishes for your athletes' success at this year's tournament.

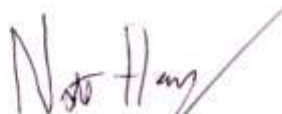
This handbook is designed to answer as many of your questions as possible and make your trip to the tournament an enjoyable experience. Instructions for registration, meals, the Opening Ceremony, medical assistance, a tentative schedule of events and other general information is contained in this handbook. Please make sure to read the handbook carefully since there have been changes made since 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 Hickory Point Golf Course and the Decatur community for being a part of the Special Olympics Illinois State Golf Tournament.

Good luck,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brianna Beers', written in a cursive style.

Brianna Beers
Director of State Championships

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nate Henry', written in a cursive style.

Nate Henry
Director of State Championships

2021 State Golf Tournament Coaches Handbook

Table of Contents

Spectator & COVID Code of Conduct Requirements	1
Competition Information	
2021 Tentative Schedule of Events	2
Coach's Responsibilities	3
Registration/Wristbands	4
Caddies	4
Disqualification/Filing Protests	5
Individuals Skills Competition	6
Three & Six Hole Competition for Golf	6
Unified & Nine Hole Competition for Golf	6
Live Scoring Information	6
Awards	7
Results	7
Meals	7
Medical Information	8
COVID Vaccine, PPE & Attendance for High Risk Individuals	8
Activities	
Spectator Golf Cart Rental	8
Opening Ceremony	8
Souvenirs	8
Family Program	9
Safety	
Alcohol Policy	9
Water Safety Policy	9
Maps	
Decatur	10

Spectator Attendance & Codes of Conduct

Spectators are allowed to attend the 2021 State Golf 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 shuttles will be monitored to ensure all spectators have signed the COVID Code of Conduct. Those unwilling to sign the form will not have access to shuttles.

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.

**Special Olympics Illinois
2021 State Golf Tournament
Hickory Point Golf Course**

Tentative Schedule of Events

Saturday, September 11, 2021

7:30am - 8:30am	Golf 3, 6 and 9-Hole Registration
8:20am – 8:30am	Opening Ceremony
8:30am – 1:00pm	Family Information & Registration Open
9:00am – 9:45am	Golf Individual Skills Registration
9:00am – 2:30pm	9 Hole Competition (Shotgun Start)
9:15am – 11:00am	3 Hole Tee Time
9:15am – 1:00pm	6 Hole Tee Time
9:00am – 3:00pm	Souvenir Pick-up of Pre-Ordered Items
10:00am – 12:00pm	Individual Skills Competition
11:00am - 2:00pm	Golf Lunch

Sunday, September 12, 2021

9:00am - 12:00pm	Golf 9-Hole Competition (Shotgun Start)
11:00am – 2:00pm	Golf Lunch

Coach's Responsibilities

It is important that coaches are adequately prepared to deal with the 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. Be 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 are getting adequate rest.
 - d. Be 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.
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 ensure that the wristband is worn by the athlete at all times.
6. 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.
7. The coach is expected to be familiar with sports rules.
8. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED.** Agencies breaking alcohol use rules will be disciplined by Special Olympics Illinois.
9. **SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED AT THE VENUE SITES.**
10. Communicate with families of the athletes. Inform them of the upcoming tournament and encourage them to attend the Special Olympics Illinois Outdoor Sports Festival.

Registration

Location: Hickory Point Golf Course
Time: 7:30am – 9:45am
Date: Saturday, September 11, 2021

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, Unified partners 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 unable to attend (no shows). No wristbands or meal tickets will be issued in the name of “no show” athletes, Unified partners or coaches.
4. The Head Coach must count meal tickets, wristbands and at the registration table to be certain adequate numbers have been included in the packet.
5. Receive the tournament Coaches Packet containing:
 - a. Computer printout listing your agency’s athletes and their divisions.
 - b. Wristbands for athletes and Unified partners.
 - c. Meal tickets for athletes, Unified partners and coaches.
 - d. Tournament for athletes, Unified partners and coaches.
 - e. Tournament flyers.

Wristbands

Wristbands must be worn at all times. A wristband for each athlete and Unified partner will be provided at registration. The Head Coach is responsible for ensuring that he/she has the proper number of wristbands before leaving the registration area. Bring broken wristbands to Tournament Central for replacement.

Caddies

Special Olympics Illinois will not provide caddies for the competition. Athletes are free to bring their own caddie. Caddies must register online **by September 8, 2021:**

<http://stategolfcaddies.soill.volunteerhub.com/>

Disqualification

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:
 - a. Running of the event
 - b. Notice of disqualification if necessary
 - c. Appeal of disqualification if brought forth
 - d. 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.
7. No disqualification protest will be heard once awards have been completed.

Filing Protests

1. Protests to Games Rules Committee may only be made concerning Game presentation, structure, and conduct.
2. Protests to the Competition Rules Committee may only be made concerning competition of athletes or partners within a venue, where within that competition; rulings are either made or not made in regard to the fairness and equity of the competition. Procedural or technical issues may be protested. Judgment calls made by officials cannot be protested.
3. Protests must be presented by the 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 should be made prior to the presentation of awards.
4. If the awards presentation has taken place the registered 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 on appeals immediately, but 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 registered sport coach within one hour of the event in question.
7. All formal protests must be made on the specified form (available from the Head Official).
8. All protests will be brought to the attention of the Competition Rules Committee for final resolution. The decision of this committee will be final and binding unless this committee concludes that the protest concerns Games presentation, structure, and/or conduct, at which time the committee will refer the protest to the Games Rules Committee.

Individual Skills Competition

Golf Individual Skills Competition is held at Hickory Point Golf Course on Saturday, beginning at 10:00am. Athletes are assigned a starting time and must check in 15 minutes before their assigned time. Athletes report to the putting green next to the clubhouse. Athletes competing in Golf Skills are required to wear appropriate attire. Athletes are not allowed to compete in jeans or jean shorts.

3 Hole & 6 Hole Competition

3 & 6 hole competition for Golf is conducted on Saturday. Golfers play one round with awards being presented immediately after the event. 3 & 6 hole golfers are assigned tee times. Golfers must report at 8:00am for training at assigned golf cart. Golfers are expected to walk during the actual play of each hole unless prior permission of cart use was approved. **Note:** All golf bags will remain in cart throughout competition. Pull carts and carrying of bags is not allowed.

Unified & Traditional 9 Hole Competition

Athletes/Partners are divisioned based on their entry scores and grouped accordingly for the first (divisioning) round. After the first round, athletes are re-divisioned based on their first round scores and grouped accordingly for the second round of play. The aggregate score from both rounds is the final score used for the awards presentations. Golfers and partners must report at 8:00am for training at assigned golf cart. Golfers are expected to walk during the actual play of each hole unless prior permission of cart use was approved. **Note:** All golf bags will remain in cart throughout competition. Pull carts and carrying of bags is not allowed.

Golf Cart Rentals at Golf Venue

The clubhouse will not have golf carts available to rent to spectators, coaches or caddies. Spectators can be shuttled to their golfers starting hole.

Golf Live Scoring

Live scoring is available for all 3, 6, and 9 Hole golfers. Individuals will be able to see scores throughout the weekend. Specific information on how to see scores online will be shared as soon as it is available.

Awards

Awards for each sport will take place immediately following the competition. 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 are awarded to 4-8 place finishers. Trophies are presented to gold-medal softball teams. In cases of disqualification, athletes receive a participation ribbon. Please do not delay awards presentations for picture taking. In cases of ties, awards are presented using the Olympic format, i.e., 1st, 2nd, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th. Awards presentations are conducted at each competition venue.

Results

Special Olympics Illinois will post the results on the website at www.soill.org after the Tournament. Go to the Results Table to secure a team's scores or place of finish; do not ask event officials or awards presenters; this will delay the process of presenting awards. Results are set up at each of the competition venues.

Meals

Meal tickets must be presented so the appropriate meal number may be punched. Meal times are:

Saturday	Golf Lunch	Assigned	Hickory Point G.C.
Saturday	Golf Dinner	On Your Own	McAlister's Deli
Sunday	Golf Lunch	Assigned	Hickory Point G.C.

Golf athletes are assigned a lunch time based on their assigned tee time or division assignment. Please check the schedule mailing for the assigned lunch time.

Special Olympics Illinois will provide a \$15.00 voucher to McAlister's for dinner. Team's will come into the store between 4:30pm – 6:30pm to redeem the voucher that will allow the each athlete and coach the choice of a sandwich, beverage, and 1 Side (soup, Mac & Cheese, fresh fruit, cucumber& tomato salad or potato salad).

Voucher for each registered athletes, Unified partners and coaches. Vouchers can be redeemed at the restaurant on Saturday evening only. McAlister's Deli is located at:
850 US-51
Forsyth, IL. 62535

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 or coaches cannot be made by Special Olympics Illinois.

Guest/Family Meals

Concessions are available at Hickory Point Golf Course. There are also a variety of restaurants in the Decatur area. Information about area restaurants is available at the Family Table. Meals are only provided to registered athletes, Unified partners and coaches.

Medical Information

Trained medical personnel are at Hickory Point Golf Course during the weekend.

Coaches **MUST** carry a copy of each athlete's current Special Olympics Illinois Application for Participation/Medical Form 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 Supporting Document Section of the State Golf 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.

Opening Ceremony

A brief Opening Ceremony will be held at Hickory Point Golf Course on Saturday at 8:20am.

Souvenirs

Souvenirs are available by pre-order only. Orders will be available for pick-up at the tournament on Saturday only. If you are unable to pick-up your items at the event then you can pay to have them shipped to you. To order, please click on the link below:

<https://shop.minervapromotions.com/stores/special-olympics/illinois/outdoor-sports-festival.html>

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

Families

All families are encouraged to stop by the family registration area at the golf venue to pick up a free raffle ticket and event information. Hours are Saturday only 8:30am - 1:00pm.

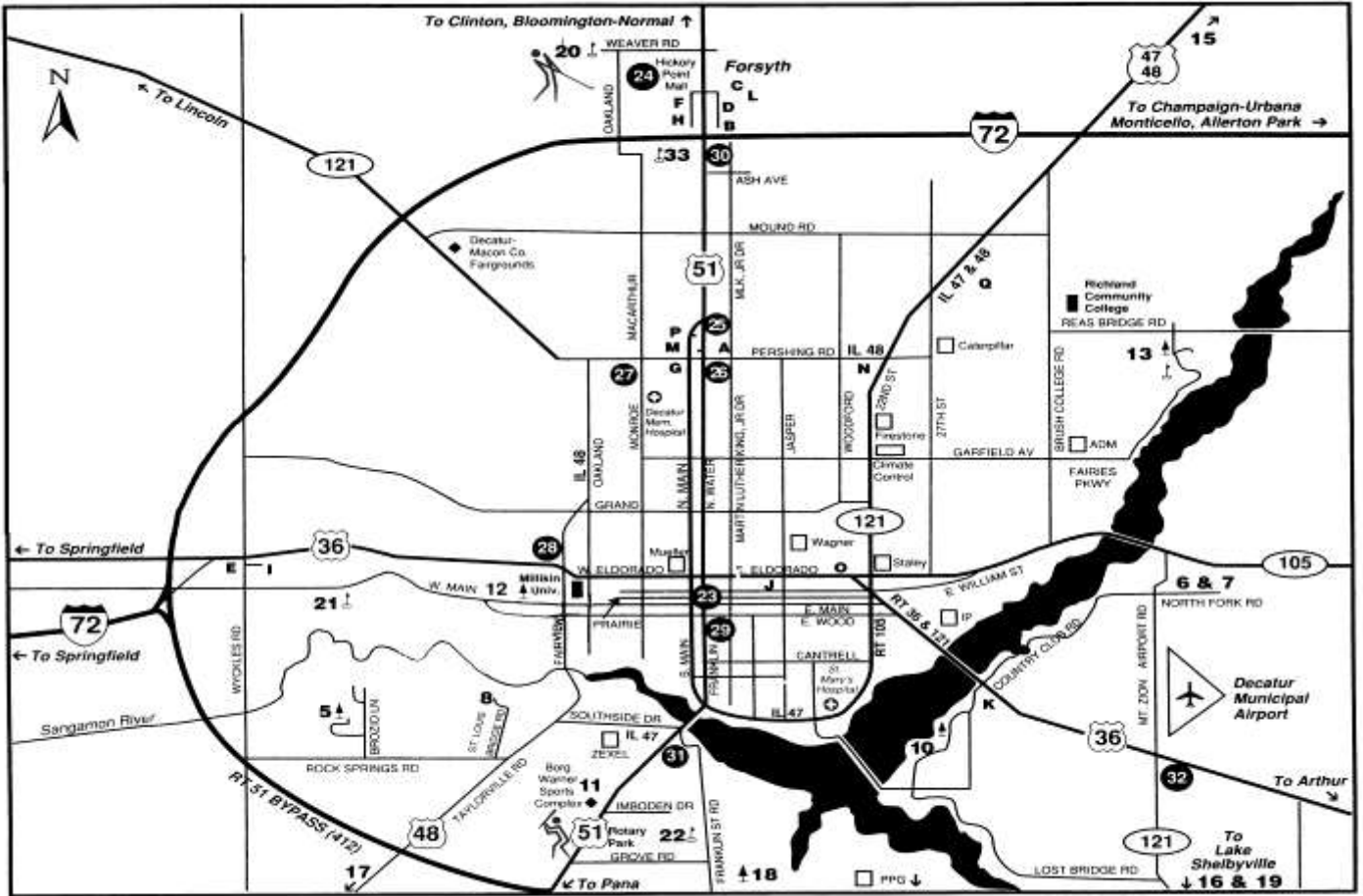
Alcohol Policy

No alcoholic beverages are allowed during competition or at the venue sites. Alcohol consumption by athletes, Unified partner or coaches is not permitted. Individuals breaking alcohol use rules will be disciplined by Special Olympics Illinois.

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 Special Olympics Sports Rule 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 swimming activities off-site, such as use of a hotel pool.

Decatur / Forsyth



Hickory Point Golf Course
727 W Weaver Road
Forsyth

**Let me win.
But if I cannot win,
Let me be brave in the attempt.**
— Special Olympics Oath

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