



Dear Families and athletes,

Congratulations on your athlete's qualification to the 2022 Special Olympics Illinois State Softball tournament! Over 400 athletes have qualified for competition in these games. We hope you will join us for this one day event, on **Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>** in Springfield Illinois. This year the event will take place at the [Land of Lincoln Sports Complex](#). Enclosed you will find information we hope you will find helpful in preparing for the trip to Springfield.

**DIRECTIONS:** The GPS address for this location is [Ernest Hemingway Dr. & S. 11th St., Springfield, IL 62703](#)

**HOTELS:** visit this [link](#) for a list of the Springfield hotels.

**FAMILY REGISTRATION:** We ask that families stop by the Family Registration anytime between **8:30am-2pm**. In an effort to provide enhanced opportunities for our athletes and families at competitions, it is important for us to capture attendance. We are only able to do this if family members stop by family registration. Your support is greatly appreciated! Schedules and other organizational event info is also available. **Family members wearing their credentials will get an extra ticket for the raffle.**

**COMPETITION SCHEDULES:** The tentative event schedule is below. Final schedules will be available on our website today, Friday, August 26. Check with your head coach on other schedule information specific to your athlete/team.

Now available on the SOILL website at: <https://www.soill.org/blog/events/state-softball-championships/> is the event handbook and an agency list of athletes and their events.

- **Final event divisions and sports schedules will be sent after the scratch deadline (August 26<sup>rd</sup>).**
- **All competitions (Skills and Team Play) will be on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Registration for the event will start at 8:30 a.m.**
- **The Opening Ceremony will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Land of Lincoln Sports Complex.**

**SOUVENIRS:** State Softball Tournament specific items and items you want customized are available by pre-order only. A limited supply of general Special Olympics Illinois merchandise will be sold on-site, Saturday 8am – 2pm. **Pre-order deadline is September 5.** Use this link to connect to State Softball Tournament merchandise options: [https://orders.minervapromotions.com/soill\\_state\\_softball\\_tournament/shop/home](https://orders.minervapromotions.com/soill_state_softball_tournament/shop/home)

**GUEST/FAMILY MEALS:** LOJOS will have concessions to purchase food & drink. There are a variety of restaurants in the Springfield area. **Meals will be provided only to registered athletes and coaches.**

**WEATHER/TEXTING SERVICE:** *Event cancellations and postponements will be determined if conditions exist that could be potentially hazardous. For text alerts during the event please text "Softball" to 844-393-0980.* In case of inclement weather, schedule changes or cancellations check the website [here](#) for updates.

## **Tentative Schedule of Events**

*\*Final softball sport schedule will be posted on the website by end of day 8/26.*

### **Saturday, September 10th, 2022**

8:30am - 10:00am	Agency Registration
8:30am – 9:00am	Warm Up for Competition
9:00am – 9:30am	Opening Ceremony
9:00am - 12:00pm	Family Information and Registration Area Open
9:00am – 2:00pm	Souvenir Sales & Pre-Order Pick Up
10:00am – 4:00pm	Team Play
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Softball Individual Skills Competition
11:00 am - 1:30pm	Lunch

We hope you enjoy your stay in Springfield, and take a moment to look over the information included in your packet. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions [kgruen@soill.org](mailto:kgruen@soill.org) .

Best of luck to your athlete and I look forward to seeing you in Springfield!

*Warmest Regards,*

***Katy Gruen***

***Manager of Athlete Leadership Programs & Families Initiatives***