



The 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games will be held at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, July 18-23. Special Olympics Colorado is proud to be sending a delegation of 28 athletes and 7 coaches in the sports of: Aquatics, Athletics, Bocce, Bowling, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Powerlifting and Tennis!

The 2009 Special Olympics Colorado Summer Games mark the first event of the year where athletes that win a gold medal will be eligible for the random draw to attend the National Games. The other events where athletes are eligible for selection are: 2009 Western/Southwestern Area Summer Classic, 2009 Northeast Bocce Tournament, 2009 Southeast Area Summer Classic, 2009 Mile High Summer Classic and the 2009 State Fall Classic.

The selection process will take place following the close of each season. Results will be collected from the games and entered into our database and following that process letters along with a commitment form will be mailed to those athletes that are eligible. Those athletes that are interested should return the commitment form by the deadline specified in the information they receive. Those names of those athletes that have sent in a commitment form will be placed in a hat and drawn at random to determine who will be part of Team Colorado at the 2010 National Games. If an athletes name is drawn for a particular sport they are not eligible to have their name drawn again for another sport.

Time line for Athletes

June 19	Letters and Commitment forms sent to Gold medal winners (Athletics, Aquatics, Gymnastics (RHY), Powerlifting)
July 17	DEADLINE for athletes to return commitment forms to SOCO (Athletics, Aquatics, Gymnastics –RHY, Powerlifting)
July 24	Notification of selection will be mailed to athletes by this date

August 14	Letters and Commitment forms sent to Gold medal winners (Bocce, Tennis)
September 11	DEADLINE for athletes to return commitment forms to SOCO (Bocce, Tennis)
September 18	Notification of selection will be mailed to athletes by this date

November 20	Letters and Commitment forms sent to Gold medal winners (Bowling)
December 11	DEADLINE for athletes to return commitment forms to SOCO (Bowling)
December 18	Notification of selection will be mailed to athletes by this date

Coaches, you can also be a part of the team – coach applications are available on our website or you may contact Rob Porreca (rwp@specialolympicsco.org) or Jenny McVoy (jm@specialolympicsco.org) and we will mail you one.

The following is the criteria for advancement to the National Games for Colorado:

1. Athletes must have a current medical application on file with the state office prior to participating in any training or competition.
2. Athletes must train a minimum 10 weeks prior to the qualifying event.
3. Athletes must compete in one of the events listed above and receive a gold medal in the sport they are interested in participating in at National Games. (This includes Unified Sports® events)
4. Athletes receiving a gold medal at these games will receive a National Games application form after the event. Athletes must complete the form and return it to SOCO for consideration for the National Games.
5. Athletes that return the application form will have their name placed in “the hat” for a random selection to the National Games.
6. Names are drawn at a set time and location yet to be determined. You need not be present to win.
7. If an athlete that is originally drawn cannot attend the Games for any reason, another athlete will be selected to attend the event.
8. There is no limit on how many times an athlete can attend the World Games or National Games. This is truly a random draw and everyone has the same opportunity to be selected for the team.
9. It does not matter how many gold medals an athlete receives at a qualifying event, an athlete’s name will only be entered in the hat once.

Like the athlete selection process the coach selection process has deadlines and obligations one must commit to. Below is the time line for coaches and the application will outline the commitments.

Timeline for Coaches

August 14	DEADLINE for Coach application for Athletics, Aquatics, Bocce, Tennis, & Powerlifting
August 28	Coaches for Athletics, Aquatics, Bocce, Tennis and Powerlifting notification sent

October 9	DEADLINE for Coach application for Bowling
October 23	Coach for bowling notification sent