

## **Athletics (Track and Field) Rules**

### **General Rules for Athletics**

#### **Uniforms**

Athletes must be appropriately dressed. They must be in Athletic wear. No Blue Jeans will be allowed. Athletes may compete in athletic shoes only. Track spikes less than 3/8 of an inch are allowed. No softball, baseball or Football cleats will be allowed. Uniforms are very important for the athlete's self-esteem.

#### **Order of Events**

Track events take precedence over field events. This means if an athlete has a track event and a field event scheduled at the same time they should do the track event first and then go to the field event. They should check in with the field event and let the venue director know what they are doing.

#### **Track Events**

**25 Meter Wheelchair Race** – The 25 Meter Wheelchair race is a straight race 25 meters in length. Athletes can compete in a Manual division or an electric division. No assistance is allowed for forward progress of the chair. Athletes must propel the chair by themselves. Each chair is allowed two lanes for their race. There is a 5 minute time limit on the race. Race will be started by a whistle or dropped flag.

**30 Meter Wheelchair Slalom Race** – Cones are placed every 5 meters for the 30 Meter span for a total of 5 cones. Athlete must maneuver their chair around all 5 cones in a slalom fashion. Each chair is allowed 2 lanes for their race. There is a 5 minute time limit on the race. Race will be started by a whistle or dropped flag.

**100M Wheelchair Race** – This is a straight race down the track for 100 meters. Each chair is allowed 2 lanes for their race. There are no corners in the race. Athlete is timed from the starting signal to when their chair crosses the finish line. Athletes must remain in their own 2 lanes.

## **Walking Events**

A walk is defined as having one foot in contact with the ground at all times. Athletes that gain an advantage by breaking into a run will be disqualified in their events. All disqualified athletes will receive a participation ribbon.

*25 Meter Unified Partner Walk* – Athletes will have an Unified Partner walk with them as a guide and support for 25 Meters. Athletes must stay in their lanes during the race. Unified Partners are not allowed to initiate forward movement by pulling or pushing the athlete. All forward momentum must be generated by the athlete. Race will be started by a whistle or dropped flag. This event is a team event and must be registered as such, with 1 Athlete and 1 Unified partner.

*25 Meter Walk* – Athlete must walk unassisted with no other person providing assistance. Athletes may use walkers, crutches, or other adaptive equipment as needed. The athlete must remain in their lane for the full 25 meter walk. Race will be started by a whistle or dropped flag.

*100 Meter Walk* – Athlete must walk unassisted with no other person providing assistance. Athletes may use walkers, crutches, or other adaptive equipment as needed. The athlete must remain in their lane for the full 100 meter walk. Race will be started by a starter's pistol.

*400 Meter Walk* - Athlete must walk unassisted with no other person providing assistance. Athletes may use walkers, crutches, or other adaptive equipment as needed. The athlete must remain in their lane for the full 400 meter walk, this is one lap around the track. The race will start with a staggered start, meaning that outside lanes will be ahead of inside lanes. Athletes that leave their lane for an inside lane, will have walked a shorter distance and thus gained an advantage. These athletes will be disqualified. Race will be started by a starter's pistol.

Blind or sight impaired athletes may have a guide. The guide may not provide any forward momentum.

## **Running Events**

**Lanes** – In these next races, 50m, 100m, 200m and 400m, Athletes must stay in their lanes. Athletes gaining an advantage by leaving their lanes will be disqualified. Athletes leaving their lanes and interfering with another runner will be disqualified. Disqualified athletes will receive a participation ribbon.

**Blocks** – Athletes may use starting blocks if they wish in all running events. Athletes must provide their own starting blocks if they wish to use them.

*50 Meter Dash* – The 50 Meter dash is the most popular running event in Special Olympics. Summer Games may have as many as 2,000 athletes competing in the 50 Meter Dash. There will be waiting lines to run the 50 Meter Dash. Coaches should choose events that match their athlete's abilities and not just the easiest event to coach. The 50 Meter Dash is a straight race that is  $\frac{1}{8}$  the length of the track. Athletes must remain in their lanes throughout the race, if an athlete gains an advantage or interferes with another athlete by leaving their lane, they will be disqualified. Race will be started by a whistle or dropped flag.

*100 Meter Dash* – The 100 Meter Dash is the length of the straightaway of the track. Lines coming through the corner can sometimes be confusing where dotted lines are used. Athletes must practice running through the dotted lines in order to stay in their lanes. A good way to show your athletes the dotted lines is to walk down the track and look back to the start of the 100 Meter Dash. It is sometimes easier to see from that direction. Race will be started by a starter's pistol.

*200 Meter Run* – The 200 Meter run is half a lap of the track. Athletes will run 1 corner of the track and must stay in their lanes at all times. An Athlete starting in the outside lane and moves to an inside lane will have ran a shorter distance and thus gained an advantage and will be disqualified. This race has a staggered start, meaning that each lane going to the outside will be a little bit ahead of the inside lane at the start. After running the corner every athlete will have ran the same distance. This race will start with a starter's pistol.

*400 Meter Run* – The 400 Meter Run is one lap around the track. This race starts with a staggered start meaning that the outside lanes start in front of the inside lanes. Athletes must remain in their lanes. Athletes leaving their lanes for an inside lane are gaining an advantage and will be disqualified. This race will start with a starter's pistol.

**Distance running events** – All distance events will start from a waterfall start. This is a curved line at the start of the race, allowing the outside lanes to be slightly ahead of the inside lanes. Racers may cut into an inside lane as soon as they can safely clear the other athletes with one stride. Athletes do not remain in their lanes in this race. Athletes should be trained to run on the inside lane as soon as they can because that is the shortest way around the track. Special Olympics Oklahoma offers the 800m and 1500M. These are high level events that require high levels of training.

800 Meter Run is 2 laps, the 1500 Meter Run is 3  $\frac{3}{4}$  laps.

## **Field Events**

*Standing Long Jump* - The Standing Long Jump is a low level jumping event. The athlete must be stationary at the takeoff line or board with both feet together. The athlete must jump off of both feet. The distance is measured to the nearest point the athlete touches to the takeoff line or board. Coaches should teach the athlete to walk forward after the jump out of the pit. Each Athlete will receive 3 jumps and the jump of the greatest distance will be the score for that event.

*Running Long Jump* – The running long jump is a high level jumping event. The athlete will run down the runway and jump off of the board, off of one foot, landing in a sand pit. The spot is marked and measured at the place the athlete touches the sand closest to the takeoff board. The athlete will receive 3 jumps and the jump of the greatest distance will be the score for that event.

*High Jump* – The High Jump is a very high level jumping event requiring a very high level of training. The basic rules require that the Athlete jump off of one

foot. The athlete cannot do a front flip over the bar. The opening height of the bar will be 1 meter. If an athlete cannot make a 1 meter jump at practice they should not be entered in this event. Each Athlete will receive 3 attempts at each height of the bar. The bar will raise 5 cm after each round. If an athlete fails to complete the jump in 3 attempts that athlete is eliminated at that point. Athletes may decide to pass on a height. This is perfectly acceptable and can be an advantage to start jumping when the height is closer to that athlete's ability. The height of the bar cannot be lowered however, once the rounds begin. If the athlete passes a height and then misses all 3 attempts at the next height, the athlete will be eliminated at the height of the last successful jump. The winner will be decided by the highest jump of the event. In case of a tie on a height, the misses on the previous height are counted and the person with the fewest misses will win.

**Throwing Events – Athletes may not enter Softball Throw and Turbojav. They must choose. The softball throw is a transitional throwing event leading to the turbojav.**

*Softball Throw* – The Softball throw is a low level throwing event. There are approximately 2000 athletes that do this event at Summer Games. You will wait in line to do this event. The basic rules of the softball throw allow the athlete to throw the ball in any manner they wish, as long as they do not cross the throwing line. If an athlete crosses the throwing line that throw is a scratch and will not count. The athlete receives 3 throws and the longest throw determines their score for the event.

*Shot Put* – The Shot Put is a very high level event. This event requires a very high level of training. If you are not familiar with the Shot Put and do not know the proper training techniques, this is not an event you should coach. There is an element of danger in this event. Safety first! Athletes can hurt their elbows and shoulders if they do not perform this event properly. The basic rules of the Shot Put require the Athlete to enter and exit the throwing ring from the rear of the ring. The Shot must be held in close proximity to the jaw below the ear. The

elbow may never precede the Shot Put. This is a pushing motion, not a throwing motion. Each Athlete will receive 3 attempts with the Shot Put. The furthest distance of the 3 Puts is recorded as the score for the event. Athletes that touch the top of the footboard or enter or exit the front of the ring will have their Put scored as a scratch and that Put will not count. Athletes that improperly Put the Shot will be disqualified for safety reasons and they may not be allowed to continue the event, if in the judgment of the official, the athlete is improperly trained in the event. Disqualified athletes will receive a participation award. Shot weights for this event are, 8-11 year old and all females athletes will use a 6lb Shot Put, All males 12 years and older will use an 8lb Shot Put and all Athletes in the Wheelchair Shot Put will use a 4lb Shot Put.

*Turbojav* – The Turbojav event is an intermediate level event. There are two sizes of turbojavs used by Special Olympics Oklahoma. 8 – 15 year olds use the shorter 300 gram Turbojav and all athletes 16 years and older use the longer 500 gram Turbojav. You can purchase turbojavs at [www.turbojav.com](http://www.turbojav.com) The Turbojav should be thrown similar to the motion of a football. The elbow should remain close to the body during the throw with the hand holding the turbojav going directly over the head. It is thrown very similar to throwing a spiral with a football. The basic rules state that the turbojav can be thrown with any motion as long as they do not cross the scratch line. The tip of the turbojav must hit the ground first. This is the point where the measurement will occur. The Athlete will receive 3 attempts, the greatest distance will determine the score for the event.

**4 x 100 Meter Relay** – The 4 X 100 Meter Relay must have 4 athletes competing. The track is marked with an exchange zone at the 100 Meter, 200 Meter and 300 Meter increments. The exchange zone is 20 Meters long and the start of the exchange zone is marked by a triangle facing forward. The end of the exchange zone is marked by a triangle facing back towards the other triangle. Athletes must exchange the baton in the exchange zone. This is a staggered start and athletes must stay in their lanes the entire time. If an athlete drops the baton they may pick it up as long as they do not interfere with the other athletes. The baton may not be thrown; it must be handed to the next athlete. If an athlete drops the baton that same athlete must pick it up to hand to the next athlete.

Relay teams should be in like uniforms. If a coach has multiple relay teams that may get heated together it can be helpful to have different colored shirts for each of the relay teams.

**4 X 100 M Unified Relay** - The 4 X 100 M Unified Relay will follow the same rules as the 4 X 100 M Relay with the exception that 2 of the runners will be Athletes and 2 will be Unified Partners. Coaches may place the runners in any order.

**4 X 100 M OSSAA Unified Relay** – The 4 X 100 M OSSAA Unified Relay will be available to OSSAA High School Interscholastic team only. The High School must be a member of OSSAA. This event will be offered at every Area Track meet. The winner of the Area Track meet in this event will be qualified to compete at the High School State Track meet and will compete against the other Unified teams from all Areas of the State for the OSSAA 4 X 100 M Unified State Championship. The 4 X 100M OSSAA Unified Relay will follow the same rules as the 4 X 100 M Relay with the exception that 2 of the runners will be Athletes and 2 will be Unified Partners. Coaches may place the runners in any order.

**Pentathlon** – The Pentathlon is a very high level event consisting of 5 separate events. A point total is awarded for the score of each of the 5 events and the scores are added together to determine a winner in the overall event. Only one award is given in the pentathlon. The five events are the Shot Put, High Jump, Running Long Jump, 100 Meter Dash, and the 400 Meter run. The Pentathlon scoring tables can be found at

[http://media.specialolympics.org/resources/sports-essentials/sport-rules/Athletics\\_Rules-FINAL-March2014.pdf](http://media.specialolympics.org/resources/sports-essentials/sport-rules/Athletics_Rules-FINAL-March2014.pdf)