



Eanes Special Olympics Procedures, Rules & Expectations

Parents and Athletes,

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Eanes Special Olympics program. Currently we offer four sports: bowling, basketball, tennis and track & field. As a District, we allow students of all ages to practice; however, an athlete must be 8 years old to participate in a competition.

Eanes ISD is grateful to have District staff willing to give of their time and talents during the week and on weekends to coach these amazing athletes. In addition, we often have middle school and high school volunteers who turn practices into truly inclusive activities.

We also appreciate our families who support our program and take time from their schedules to ensure their children experience this fun opportunity.

The guidance below is to ensure that we are meeting the needs of the athletes, coaching staff, parents and volunteers, and that we are in compliance with the rules and regulations of Special Olympics Texas who is the governing body of Eanes Special Olympics.

MEDICALS:

All athlete medicals are due before an athlete will be permitted to participate in any Eanes Special Olympics activity. Families will be contacted by the Head of Delegation regarding medicals which have an upcoming expiration date. If an athlete's medical is expired, they will not be allowed to participate in practices until a current medical is provided. Special Olympics Texas sets deadlines for each sport requiring medicals to be turned in by that date. Once medicals are late, the athlete cannot participate in the upcoming competition.

The medical form is on the Eanes ISD website and can be accessed at http://www.sotx.org/get-involved/sig/forms/sotx_athlete_medical_form.pdf

Please note that all the pages must be complete and that page 4 requires a physician's signature.

ATHLETE SUPPORT:

Eanes ISD provides coaching staff for each sport listed above. The coaching staff's primary responsibility is to help each athlete obtain the skills needed to perform in competition and improve overall health and fitness. The coaching staff are able to adapt activities to meet the individual needs of the athlete in terms of physical, cognitive and behavioral needs. The coaching staff can work with the classroom teachers or other Eanes ISD staff to determine how best to structure activities depending on needs. However, the coaches are not available to provide individual, 1-1 support for any particular athlete over time.

Parents should consider if their child will need additional supports at practice. If the student requires a significant amount of support during the school day or in large group activities that are only moderately

structured, the parent should consider providing an additional support person. Coaches find that siblings, typically developing peers or another familiar adult tend to work better than the parent themselves. As in most settings, kids tend to behave differently when their parents are providing coaching assistance. Eanes ISD does not offer 1-1 support for students during practices or competitions.

It is important that the athlete does not develop an over-reliance on a family member since Special Olympics Texas guidelines prohibit family members from assisting during competition.

ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS:

All participants are expected to be responsible and respectful towards fellow athletes, staff and equipment with supports in place. This includes participating during practice, being supportive of teammates, and following the directions of coaches and volunteers.

If an athlete displays behavior that is deemed unsafe or inappropriate for the athlete or for others, the athlete will be subject to the consequences below. Decisions about safety and/or inappropriate behavior are left to the discretion of the Eanes ISD coaching staff.

If an athlete exhibits unsafe or inappropriate behavior, the following actions will take place:

- 1st offense – warning to student; information shared with parent; consultation with classroom teacher or other EISD staff
- 2nd offense – suspension from the next practice; continued consultation with parent and EISD staff
- 3rd offense – suspension from the current sport being played; continued consultation with parent and EISD staff
- Continued offenses – the Head of Delegation and Executive Director of Special Education will meet with the parents to determine future involvement

PARENT/FAMILY EXPECTATIONS:

Families are expected to be responsible and respectful towards all athletes, staff, and equipment. It is important that parents follow the guidelines below to honor the time and commitment of the coaches and volunteers.

- Drop your athlete off at the designated location on time
- Pick your athlete up at the designated location on time
- Communicate as early as possible to the Head of Delegation, Pegi Pickett, if your child is missing a practice
- Communicate as early as possible to the Head of Delegation, Pegi Pickett, if you are scratching from a competition in which your child is entered

During competitions, parents are under the rules and regulations of Special Olympics Texas. Special Olympics Texas has the right to remove any parent from an event at their discretion.



**EANES ISD
SPECIAL OLYMPICS
PROCEDURES, RULES & EXPECTATIONS**

I have read and will abide by the procedures, rules and expectations described above for participation in Eanes ISD Special Olympics.

(Parent Signature)

(Date)

(Athlete Signature – if appropriate)

(Date)