

**Special
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Pennsylvania



2025 SOPA Golf Season

June - August

Agenda

- Overview – Summer Season
- Golf Sport Management Team
- Golf Coach Survey
- Golf Season
 - Location Map
 - Seasonal Competition
 - How to host/what is expected of a coach
 - USGA Handicaps - # of rounds played
 - SONA/SOPA Championship
- Site Registration/Sign-ups
- Pre-season webinar



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Overview – Summer Season

- Shift into summer to offer more competition opportunities
- Longer length for the season
- Opportunity to provide golf to additional athletes (spring sport athletes)

SEASONS AT A GLANCE






	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER
Training Site Registration (see link below)	April 1 - May 1	Sept. 1 - Oct. 1	Nov. 1 - Dec. 1	March 1 - April 1
Athlete, Unified Partner, Volunteer Signup	May 15 - July 15	Oct. 15 - Nov. 15	Dec. 15 - March 1	April 15 - May 15
Season Length	August 9 - Nov. 3	Dec. 1 - March 2	March 14 - June 7	June 1 - Sept. 15
Eligibility Deadline	August 23	December 13	March 28	June 20
Sports Offered	Bocce, Bowling, Flag Football, Long Distance Running/Walking, Powerlifting, Soccer, Volleyball	Alpine Skiing, Bowling, Figure Skating, Floor Hockey, Snowboard, Snowshoe, Speed Skating	Athletics (Track & Field), Basketball, Equestrian, Gymnastics, Swimming, Tennis	Golf Softball



Golf Sport Management Team

- Special Olympics Pennsylvania Sport Management Teams are comprised of key regional leadership volunteers who represent each of SOPA's sponsored sports. These individuals represent a variety of levels within their respective sports, both inside and outside of Special Olympic Goals
 - Goals
 - Promote the sport within the Special Olympics community
 - Increase awareness of and athlete participation in the sport
 - Work to improve the quality of coach/athlete training and competition opportunities for the sport they represent



Sports Management Team

Name	Team	Region	Role
Melody Lewis	Erie	Northwest	Coach
Joe Hughes	Centre	Wilds	Coach
Catlin Baron	Centre	Wilds	Athlete
Bette Ann Baerenklau	Area P	Northeast	Coach
Dick Koshemeder	Chester	Greater Philadelphia	Coach
Deb Bottomley	Adams	Capital Area Region	Coach
Jennifer Bottomley	Adams	Capital Area Region	Athlete
Kevin Roland	Franklin	Ridge & Valley	Coach
Marc McCarey	Allegheny	Three Rivers	Coach
Michael Butz	N/A	N/A	USGA (retired)
Ron Stepanek	N/A	N/A	PGS
Nate Garland	N/A	N/A	SOPA Representative
Andrew Fee	N/A	N/A	Technical Delegate
Mike Bovino	N/A	N/A	Unified Delegate



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Golf Sport Management Team

- Goals for 2025
 - Assist coaches with planning of a season providing athletes opportunities to compete on several different courses
 - Plan SOPA Championship event
 - Revise Coach Education, build Facilitator Guide
 - Build resources and host Advanced Coach Clinic



Golf Coach Survey

- Link if you have not completed: [Golf survey](#)
- For this year minimum # of rounds will remain the same at 6, but need to be played on at least 4 different courses in competition setting.
- Need coaches to be willing to host events and travel to events
 - Results from survey showed your willingness to do this!!!



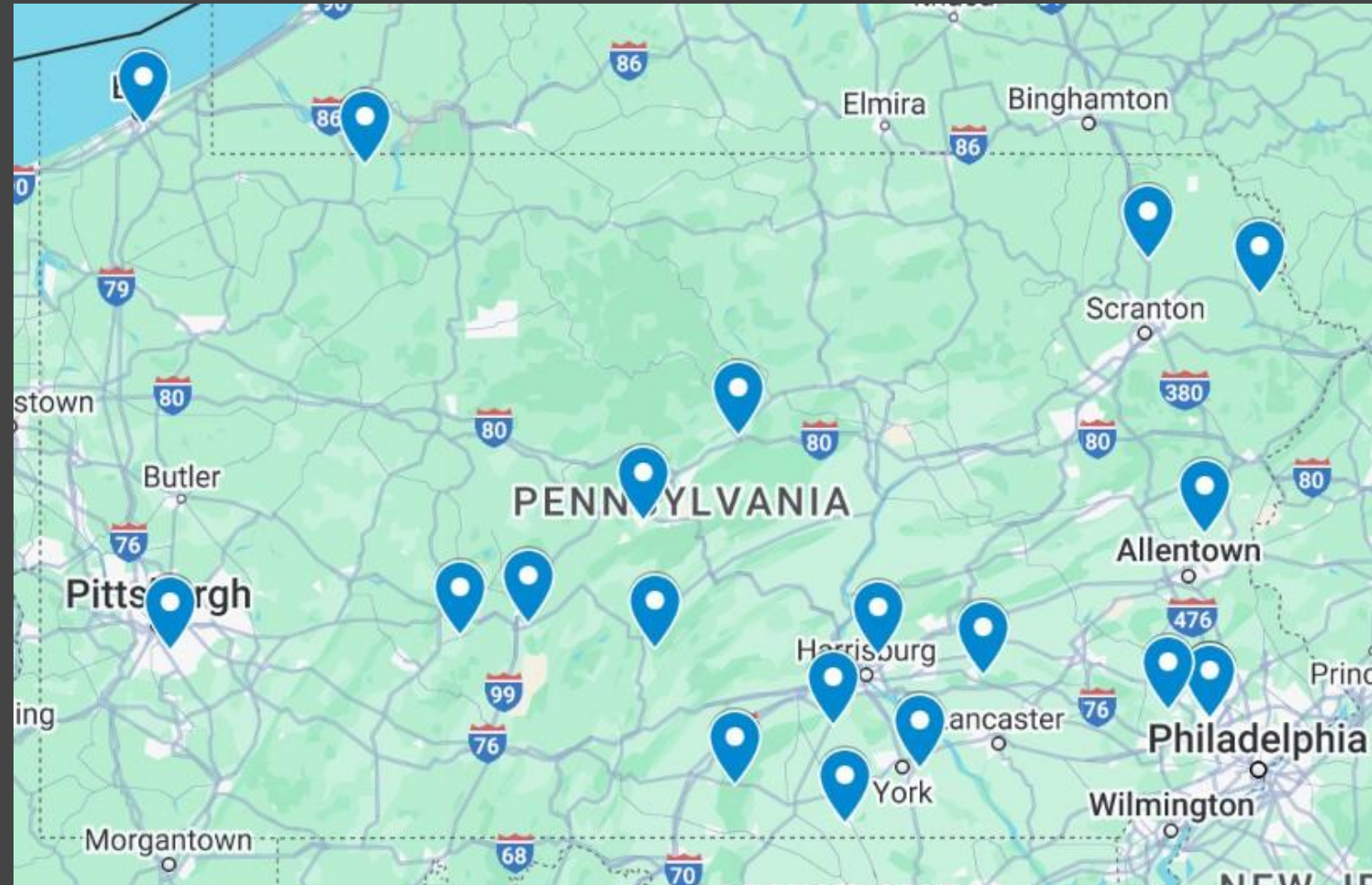
Golf Coach Survey

- Participation by the #s:
 - Level 1 (Skills) – 110
 - Level 2 (Unified 9-hole) – 50
 - Level 3 (Unified 18-hole)– 24
 - Level 4 (Individual 9) – 29
 - Level 5 (individual 18) - 9
- Existing events opportunities = 7
- 13 coaches shared willingness to host competition
- Nearly everyone hoping to travel 1-2 hours for an event



Golf Season – Location Map

- [Golf Map](#)
- [Golf Contact List](#)



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Golf Season – Seasonal Competition

- Offering ALL Levels in 2025
 - Level 1 – Individual Skills
 - Level 2 – Unified Sports Alt. Shot 9-hole
 - Level 3 – Unified Sports Alt. Shot 18-hole
 - Level 4 – Individual 9-hole
 - Level 5 – Individual 18-hole
- Minimum # of 6 rounds of golf played on a variety of courses
- USGA Handicaps (Doug Smithman)



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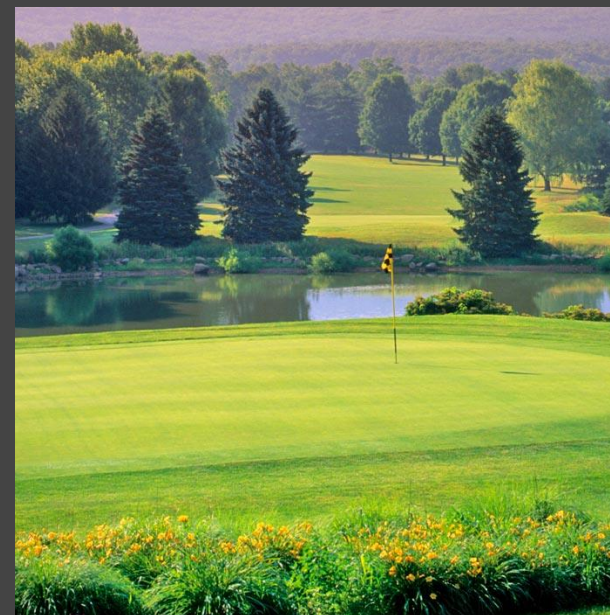
Golf Season – Hosting Competition

- SMT/HQ staff will assist in building out a seasonal competition calendar, but we will need your help!
- Expectation of Coach
 - Work with Regional Sport Director on planning
 - Secure facility
 - Solicit teams to attend
 - Communicate details with attending teams
 - Work with facility/RSD to secure volunteers
- Expectation of Regional Team
 - Supply equipment (if necessary)
 - Set up GMS in needed
 - Ensure all athletes participating meet eligibility criteria
- Awards are NOT necessary for these events



Golf Season – SONA / SOPA Championship

- SONA
 - August 25-28
 - Anticipated - 220 golfers
- SOPA
 - August 25-27
 - Anticipated - 100 golfers
- Some SOPA athletes will participate in SONA Tournament, we will receive allocations for this event
- Golf carts will be utilized for all individuals at this event



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SONA / SOPA Schedule

- Monday
 - Hotel check-in
 - Walk course/practice rounds (pay/schedule on your own)
 - Dinner on-site
 - Coach's meetings
 - Opening Ceremonies
- Tuesday
 - Round 1/Individual Skills (conducted either morning or afternoon)
 - lunch on-site
 - Dinner/Activity
- Wednesday
 - Round 2/Individual Skills finals
 - Lunch on-site
 - Awards
 - Departure



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Site Registration / Signups

- [Training Site Registration Form](#)
 - Head coach/training site coordinator complete by April 1
- Athlete & Volunteer Sign-ups
 - April 15 – May 15, be sure ALL interested individuals are in by May 15
- You may start practices earlier, but it is extremely important that you are working with your RSD to ensure everyone at practice is eligible



Your Questions

- Will golf be offered at Sectionals?
 - Golf will NOT be offered at Spring to we will develop a seasonal schedule to offer several events to athletes during the season
- Will women's tees be used?
 - we will use adjusted distances to make the course manageable for all levels with guidance from the national SRT



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SAVE THE DATE

- Pre-season coach webinar will be held April 30th at 7pm
- [REGISTER HERE](#)
- To cover:
 - Rules to be utilized for the season
 - Seasonal schedule
 - How to use Trackers
 - Eligibility
 - Score/Course updates
 - Championship Registration
 - USGA handicaps
 - SOPA Golf Championship information



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