



2022 State Basketball Event Guide





2022 State Basketball

The 2022 State Basketball tournament is set for March 11-12, 2022 at Lipscomb University in Nashville. Included in this packet is important information about the event. Please take the time to read all the way through it and share with your coaches, athletes and families. We are thrilled to be hosting the first State Basketball tournament in 3 years! Due to the long time between tournaments and COVID, there have been many changes. Any information that is different from the last state basketball tournament in 2019 is highlighted.

Locations

Lipscomb University – 1 University Park Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

Allen Arena - Games, Opening Ceremonies, Registration, Hospitality

Lipscomb Academy Gym – Games

Student Activities Center (SAC) – Games

Ezell Center (Rooms TBD) – Healthy Hearing

Registration Due Date

All registration materials are due in the state office by Friday, February 25. Please send your registration directly to Victoria (vmehren@specialolympicstn.org) and Sean (ssake@specialolympicstn.org). Email is preferred, but if you need to mail or fax in your registration, please make sure to mark it to our attention.

Note: After Friday, March 4, registration will be complete and no changes can be made to rosters or delegations. **Do not bring alternates to the competition because they will not be registered and will not be able to play.**

Traditional teams consist of 10 players and 2 coaches. Unified teams are either 5 athletes and 5 partners, or 6 athletes and 4 partners plus 2 coaches. Coaches cannot play on teams.

Ranking Your Team Level

When filling out your team registration form for both Traditional and Unified, please take time to watch the videos on the team level form so you can accurately determine the skill level of your players and of your team as a whole.



Accurately ranking your team and players helps to ensure better competition for all teams. Thank you for being thoughtful about your rankings.

Class A Volunteer Forms

All coaches, Unified partners over the age of 18, and any others who are travelling with or staying with your delegation must submit this form. Note: if you have parents, family members or other adults who are not part of your official delegation, but are staying with your group and interacting with athletes, they MUST have a current Class A and Protective Behaviors on file. There are NO exceptions to this rule. The deadline to submit new or expired Class A forms is Friday, February 28 – send directly to Joanne (jdrumright@specialolympicstn.org).

Venue

Traditional and Unified court locations are alternated on a yearly basis. This year, in order to space out teams and people, we will be utilizing Allen Arena, the Student Activities Center (SAC) and Lipscomb Academy. McQuiddy Gym (connects Allen Arena and the SAC) will most likely not be in use. Since our numbers are different than usual due to COVID, which divisions take place at which gym will be determined and announced at a later date.

Registration Location

Registration will be held on Friday, March 11 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. at the entrance to Allen Arena in front of the Hall of Fame room. Look for the sign. Only Heads of Delegation are to report to the registration area. HODs should come to registration prepared with any scratches.

Housing

Areas are responsible for their own housing arrangements. It is recommended that you book your rooms as soon as possible as there are many events happening in Nashville in the same time period as our tournament. For a relatively affordable option with easy access to Lipscomb University, consider the Old Hickory Blvd. area in Brentwood.



Meals

Areas are responsible for their own lunches on Friday. Special Olympics Tennessee will provide the following meals:

Friday dinner – Lipscomb Dining Hall (registered athletes/partners/coaches only – meal ticket required) – box/grab and go style with drink. The dining hall will be available to eat in.

Saturday breakfast – on your own

Saturday lunch – Lipscomb Dining Hall (registered athletes/partners/coaches only – meal ticket required). Box/grab and go style with drink. The dining hall will be available to eat in.

Saturday dinner – on your own

Coaching Requirements

All coaches must complete the following trainings prior to the tournament:

- Protective Behaviors – required every 3 years
- Class A Background Check – required every 3 years
- Concussion in Sports <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61151/concussion-in-sports> – required every 3 years. Can be completed in approximately one hour.
- Unified Sports (Unified coaches only) <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61127/coaching-unified-sports> - one time training

Heads of Delegation/Head Coaches Meetings

An online Zoom meeting will be held the week prior to the tournament. Information will be distributed to HODs and coaches prior to the call.

Head coaches will also have a meeting at the conclusion of screening games. Traditional head coaches will have their meeting in the bleachers underneath the Hall of Fame room by Court 2. Unified coaches will have their meeting in the lobby of the Student Activities Center. Game schedules will be determined at this time. Coaches should not leave the gym until they are 100% sure of when and where their team plays in the morning. Any team missing their game time will forfeit that game.



Opening Ceremony

Due to COVID, no Opening Ceremony will be held this year.

Screening Games

Screening games will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 11. It is imperative that your entire team is present and ready to play their screening games. Screening games are essential to helping us ensure that teams are placed in the correct division. All athletes and Unified partners should be instructed to play their best for screening games.

Equipment Requirement

Teams must provide their own basketballs for pre-game warm-ups. In basketball, non-black sole shoes are preferred. Players should wear matching uniforms with numbers and athletic shorts, as well as athletic socks and shoes. **Jeans, boots, etc. are not appropriate attire for a basketball tournament.**

Coaches and Players in the Bench Area

In both traditional and Unified basketball, there should only be ten players and two coaches on the bench. Any additional persons will be asked to leave the bench area. Be aware that there is a coach's box and coaches are to remain in that area. Remind any spectators travelling with you that if they enter the floor from the stands, your team will be subject to forfeiting that game.

Hospitality and Concessions

Due to COVID, hospitality this year will ONLY be open to referees/officials and event volunteers. Coaches, athletes, partners and spectators will not be allowed in the hospitality area.

There will be no Athlete/Partner Hospitality area this year. Please plan accordingly by bringing your own snacks, drinks, etc.

Concession stands will not be open. However, the University is investigating potentially having the Chick-Fil-A on campus open to purchase food from. More information will be provided closer to the tournament.

Family members/spectators may not purchase meals in the Lipscomb Dining Hall this year.



Healthy Hearing

There will be FREE hearing screenings set up during the tournament for all participating athletes and Unified partners. Screenings will take place in the Ezell Building (room numbers will be determined prior to tournament). We strongly encourage all players to be screened – even if they participated last year. Hearing can and does change over the course of a year!

Pool and Hot Tub Policy

As a reminder, delegations are NEVER allowed to recreationally swim in pools or hot tubs while attending any local, state, national or international Special Olympics event. This is a worldwide rule for Special Olympics programs and is a liability and safety issue. Delegations caught with members swimming are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the tournament.

Lipscomb University Policies

All games and event activities take place on the campus of Lipscomb University and are therefore subject to all University policies. There is no smoking, vaping, chewing or using any tobacco products anywhere on campus. These activities are also banned at all Special Olympics events, so it's a double ban. Please respect the University and follow this rule – remind family members and spectators of the rule as well.

No vehicles may park in the area directly in front of Allen Arena. This is a fire lane and you will be towed at your own expense. Additionally, cars and buses may not park at the back loading dock area.

Emergency Numbers

Special Olympics Operations

(925) 451-4799 Victoria / (615) 948-4133 Sean



Travel

Programs are responsible for all travel arrangements and expenses for their delegations. Due to the time of year, there is a strong chance of inclement weather. Please advise all coaches to immediately notify Victoria and/or Sean if the delegation is running late or encounters an incident or emergency on the road.

COVID Precautions

In order to promote the health and safety of all attendees, our Return to Activities committee has put regulations in place to protect against the spread of COVID-19. Please note the following:

- Masks are to be worn indoors when not actively competing or eating.
- No Opening Ceremony
- Social distancing is encouraged whenever possible. If there is extra space on the bench, use it. Teams should find an area as separate from other teams as possible to hang out between games – recommend claiming a section in Allen Arena.
- 50% of each delegation must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Coaches should plan to have a picture or copy of their vaccinated delegation members on hand to show if needed.
- Meals will be grab-and-go style. Teams may eat in the dining hall, outside on campus, or they may take it off campus if their game schedule allows.

Questions

Direct any questions to Victoria Mehren, (925) 451-4799 or vmehren@specialolympicstn.org or Sean Stake, (615) 948-4133 or sstake@specialolympicstn.org.

Thank you for your help in making this a successful event for all involved!