Outlook

November 2026 Green List

From Sherry Rudolph <srudolph@somt.org>
Date Mon 11/2/2026 4:57 PM
To Sherry Rudolph <srudolph@somt.org>



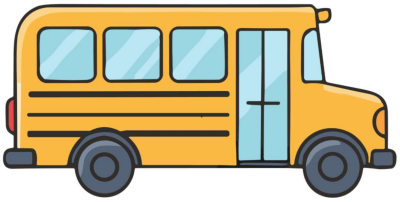
FROM THE FRONT OFFICE

COE SUPPORT:

- Teams that will participate in bowling and winter sports should start working to get athletes, coaches, and volunteers into the COE portal so you are not rushed
- Need support? -Reach out to your local Outreach Coordinator
- Bowling/winter sports paperwork deadline is **Dec. 4th**
- Are you missing a name from your Team List? Make sure you check the Area Tab. If you haven't invited someone to your team in COE, they are automatically assigned to the Area.
- Don't forget to send team invitations to participants in the COE! They cannot add themselves to your team; you must send an invitation.

Key to the new Green List:
Red = expired or missing items
Blue = items expiring in the next three months
Green (naa) = athletes successfully registered in COE with no medical required
Orange (See athlete medical column) = athlete is in COE, but there is an issue with their medical that **must be resolved to participate**
*If the medical column is red and labeled "**Obsolete**" that means that the athlete had what used to be considered a current medical, but it was dated prior to a year ago and is*

now considered obsolete.
If you have renewed or updated something in your Checklist after 11/27/26, it will be reflected on the December Green List.



Will you have teams at different venues at State Basketball? Set up sub-teams in the Center of Excellence for each group and add the coach as an "Admin" in that sub-group. The coach will have access to health information in case of an emergency.

- Open your profile
- Go to Coach Zone
- Click "My Teams"
- Click the highlighted name of your main team
- Scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Create a New Sub-Team"
- Name the team
- Describe the team – maybe use something like basketball at West
- Sport
- Submit
- Go back to "My Teams" and search/add participants
- Add everyone **except the lead coach** as a "Member"
- The lead coach will be added as "Admin" and will be able to access athlete's medicals and Health History in an emergency
- Send a list of lead coaches to Sue so she can give them permission to view the athletes' medical information shill@somt.org

SPORTS

Please add the Sports Departments' email addresses to your *safe sender* list in your email. We have gotten reports of our emails being sent to the junk folder and want to make sure everyone is getting our communications.
Brittani – bbush@somt.org
Bill – bpolk@somt.org
Richie – rwhitney@somt.org

2026 STATE BASKETBALL | Butte, MT - November 12-14

Season Timeline | Important Dates

- Games Information Packet & Roster/Registration Form Distributed – **November 20**
- Official Bowling Season Start/All Paperwork Due in COE – **December 4**

- Roster Deadline – **December 18**
- Divisioning Scores/Final Registration Due – **January 8**

Tournament Locations & Dates:

- Helena – Sunday, January 24
- Billings (2 venues) - Sunday, January 31
- Bigfork (Youth) - Monday, February 1
- Missoula – Monday, February 1
- Bigfork (Adult) - Tuesday February 2
- Butte – Tuesday, February 2
- Great Falls (2 venues) - Tuesday February 9
- Glasgow – Thursday, February 11

AREA SPRING GAMES APPROVAL FORM

Approval forms are due by December 1st to Brittani Bush (**bbush@somt.org**). If you do not have venue information, dates, or individuals for your committees locked in by December 1st - you will need to have those locked in by the end of December or games will not be approved in your area.

Please remember, there needs to be more than a handful of individuals included in your games planning committees willing to take on roles from start to finish. The same name cannot be written down for multiple duties to make games sustainable for everyone involved.

Season Timeline changes that differ from state timelines must be approved in advance. We will be requesting that all rosters be sent to your area games liaison to be entered into GMS ahead of your events. We will be running scratch reports from the state office to make sure everyone is in the Center of Excellence with all tasks complete ahead of the event.

If you know someone or would like to get involved in the Games Planning Committees for your area, please reach out to the Area Games State Office Liaison for your area.

Richie Whitney – Sports and Competition Coordinator (rwhitney@somt.org)

- Southwestern Area (SWAR)
- Big Sky Area (BSAR)
- Northeastern Area (NEAR)
- Yellowstone Valley Area (YVAR)

Tanner Sholey – West Program Coordinator (tsholey@somt.org)

- Five Valleys Area (FVAR)
- Glacier Area (GLAR)

2027 STATE SUMMER GAMES | Missoula | May 19-21

SEASON TIMELINE | IMPORTANT DATES

- February 12 - Games Info Packet & Roster/Registration Form Distributed

- March 5 - Practice Season Starts/All Paperwork Due
- March 26 - Rosters Due
- April 9 - Exceptions/Scratch Report Distributed
- April 16 - Final Registration/Divisioning Scores Due

TENTATIVE SPORT OFFERINGS BY DAY

Wednesday May 19

- Cycling – UofM Campus (Oval)
- Swimming – UofM Grizzly Pool
- Athletics (Track Meet) - Dornblaser Track Stadium

Thursday May 20

- Golf – UofM Golf Course
- Soccer – UofM Soccer Field
- Traditional Doubles & Assisted Singles Bocce – UofM Indoor Practice Facility (Bubble)
- MATP (Tentative upon interest) - UofM West Auxiliary Gym (WAG)

Friday May 21

- Athletics (Throws, Jumps, Assisted events/wheelchair races) - Dornblaser Track Stadium & Practice Field
- Unified Bocce Doubles – UofM Indoor Practice Facility (Bubble)

OUTREACH

2027 Endowment Distribution to each team's account will occur sometime in January. To set expectations, the amount will be significantly less than last year.

A new LPC/team, or person taking over the LPC position for a team, must complete the training to participate in local or state winter/bowling practices or events. Our last training date left is:

- Tuesday, November 17, 3:30 pm
- Register for the 1-hour Training **HERE**

LPC/Coach Season Opener for Bowling & Winter Season

- Tuesday, November 24, 2026 @ noon or 6PM
- ALL LPC's and Coaches are encouraged to attend

SSG Dorm Information

- Information and cost sheet
  - **HERE**
- Breakfast is $11.00 per person (price not locked in yet)
  - Two dorm options
    - Knowles
    - **KNOWLES**
    - Pantzer
    - **PANTZER**
- Sign Up Here
  - **DORM APPLICATION**

DSA Nominations 2028

- Nominations will open after State Basketball
- Watch for more information

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

But WHY does THAT TEAM have a uniform with a purple globe embedded in a bicycle wheel?

While Special Olympics International has always had brand guidelines, we've only recently been asked, as of 2024, to bring our program in line with them. No one needs to throw out current uniforms, but when it's time to order new uniforms or other branded items, please check the brand guidelines and reach out with any questions. Thank you for helping keep Montana looking sharp!

Team Resources: Area/Team Brand Guidelines (this page is continuously being updated)

Questions and approval for uniforms, spirit wear, and additional collateral?
Email Holly: **hnetz@somt.org**

HEALTH

We are expanding Healthy Athletes at State Basketball!
2-day event!

Thursday, November 12: REGISTRATION ONLY event, closed October 22

- Only athletes who have pre-registered will be able to attend that event.

Friday, November 13

- FUNFitness, Special Smiles, Healthy Hearing and Strong Minds
- Location: Civic Center
- Time: 6:30-8:30p

**Every athlete who completes all 4 health screenings will receive a super cool medal at the Dance Carnival! Save time at the Dance Carnival and complete 2 of the 4 on Thursday!

UCS

ATTENTION School-Based and School-Aged Special Olympics Teams!

Please report your participation in the basketball season using the following link: **2026-2027 Special Olympics Teams Activity Reporting – Fill out form.** This information is necessary for Unified Champion Schools grant reporting. Please complete reporting no

later than November 30. **If you have questions, please contact Terri Norman, UCS Senior Director, at tnorman@somt.org. Thanks so much!**

DEVELOPMENT

MTN Chevy Raffle tickets will be distributed at SBB to participating teams. If not attending SBB, please contact Wendy (wrispens@somt.org) to coordinate.
Teams will receive 5% more tickets than what was sold last year. All tickets must be tracked and **ALL SOLD AND UNSOLD TICKETS MUST BE TURNED IN.**
For teams not attending SBB, please email Wendy at the above email and provide a current mailing address. Tickets will be mailed the week following SBB. Thank you!

LETR

🧊❄️ Polar Plunge Is HERE! #BraveTheCold

It's officially time to #BraveTheCold! Registration for the 2026–2027 Special Olympics Montana Polar Plunge season is NOW OPEN!

🗓️ Upcoming Polar Plunge Events:

- Great Falls Polar Plunge – **Dec 4, 2026**
- Miles City Polar Plunge – **Dec 4, 2026**
- Glasgow "Middle of Nowhere" Plunge – **Dec 5, 2026**
- Havre Subzero Superhero Plunge – **Dec 5, 2026**
- Sidney Eastern Montana Polar Plunge – **Dec 10, 2026**
- Billings Polar Plunge – **Dec 11, 2026**
- Butte Southwestern Plunge – **Jan 23, 2027**
- Whitefish Penguin Plunge – **Feb 6, 2027**
- Helena Sweetheart Passion Plunge – **Feb 13, 2027**
- Ennis Polar Plunge – **Feb 13, 2027**
- Bozeman Presidents Plunge – **Feb 20, 2027**
- Missoula Griz Dip – **Feb 20, 2027**
- Lucky Charm Plunge (Lewistown) – **Mar 13, 2027**
- Anaconda Pintler Plunge – **Mar 13, 2027**

🔥 **Don't wait! Register today,** start fundraising, and get ready to #BraveTheCold for a great cause!

🔗 **Register Today: https://somt.org/torch-run/polar-plunge/**

Plan Ahead for the 2027 LETR Kickoff Conference!

We would love to have you join us at the **2027 LETR Kickoff Conference!**

🗓️ **March 5–7, 2027**
📍 **Holiday Inn Downtown Missoula**
⛰️ **2027 Theme: Climbing to New Heights**

The Kickoff Conference is an opportunity to connect, learn, and get inspired for another great year with Special Olympics Montana and LETR. Attendees will have the chance to **learn best practices from others, share ideas, and network with peers from across Montana** around:

- Sports Coaches Clinic
- Health
- Athlete Leadership
- LETR & Fundraising Initiatives

Whether you're looking for new ideas to bring back to your local program, ways to better engage athletes and volunteers, or simply an opportunity to connect with others doing this work across the state, there will be something for everyone as we work together to **Climb to New Heights in 2027!**

- Registration opens November 2nd!

🌟 Auction Items Needed — 2027 LETR Kickoff Conference! 🌟

We need your help! As we prepare for the 2027 LETR Kickoff Conference, March 5–7 in Missoula, we're looking for auction item donations to help make our annual auction a success!

- Gift baskets, gift cards, outdoor gear, unique experiences, and more!
- Have something gently loved that no longer serves a purpose in your space? It might be the perfect treasure for one of our fellow supporters! Consider donating gently used items in good condition to give them a new home while supporting a great cause.

Contact Raylynn Bucher if you have an item worth $30 or more that you want to contribute. Email **rbucher@somt.org**



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