

Parent Teacher Organization for Exceptional Children (PTOEC)

Board Policies

Policy for Competition in Multiple Sports – April 2012
Van Use Policy – May 2012

Policy for Competition in Multiple Sports
Belleville Area Parent Teacher Organization for Exceptional Children
Accepted by Board April 2012

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

- Mission Statement of Special Olympics Incorporated

Special Olympics Incorporated and Special Olympics Illinois encourage athletes to properly train and compete in the sports of their interest and choice. Special Olympics Illinois does not prevent athletes who have met all eligibility and advancement criteria from competing in any competition. Special Olympics Illinois does require athletes to choose one sport if the athlete qualifies to compete in more than one sport when the state event is a multi-sport tournament.

*- Clarification from Tracy Hilliard,
Vice President Sports Training and Competition
Special Olympics Illinois*

In light of these facts, the following is added to the policies and athlete handbook of the PTOEC:

It is a founding principle of Special Olympics to promote athlete choice, not to limit it. The purpose of the organization is to empower athletes; the focus is on choices and options. Therefore, athletes who train and want to compete in more than one sport are allowed to do so. If an athlete qualifies for more than one sport at a multi-sport state event, the athlete must choose between the sports since he or she can only register for one sport at the state competition.

The one exception to this policy is the case of relay teams. Because a coach will not want the other athletes in the relay to be affected by a teammate choosing to participate in a different sport, a coach may not select an athlete for a relay event if they know the athlete is going to participate in another sport at a multi-sport state tournament. The athlete may, however, participate in the sport in individual events.

It is to be remembered that the purpose of Special Olympics is not the process of allowing as many athletes as possible an opportunity to advance to state events; it is rather the process of empowering athletes to make their own choices.

PTOEC
Van Use Policy
Accepted by board May 2012

The PTOEC vans were donated by Variety Children's Charities for the sole purpose of transporting special needs members of PTOEC to activities. Vans are maintained through funds raised by PTOEC. The following policies will govern the use of the vans:

1. Primary use of the vans is for Summer Camp activities. These activities supersede all other requests for use of the vans. PTOEC covers all costs for the operation of the vans during summer camp.
2. The second major use of the vans is to transport PTOEC Special Olympics athletes to practices and competitions. PTOEC covers all costs for the operation of the vans for these activities.
3. If the vans are not being used for summer camp or Special Olympics, PTOEC members may request the use of the van to transport individuals with special needs to activities that promote the physical, intellectual, social, and emotional development of the special needs participants. The users of the vans for these purposes will cover the cost of the gasoline used.
4. If the vans are not being used as stated above, faculty or staff of a school within the PTOEC service area may request the use of the vans to transport special needs students to activities as specified in the Variety Children's Charities guidelines.
5. Anyone who has been granted permission by the van coordinator to use the vans must adhere to all safety, insurance, recording, and other procedures stated in the existing van policies.