



Team Sports Participation Policy

Special Olympics Maryland – Montgomery County (SOMO)

If you chose a team sport (e.g., basketball (3x3 and 5x5), cheerleading, softball, soccer, aquatics relays, track relays. or bocce doubles) and the coach's skill assessment places the athlete on the team level, you must commit fully to that sport. In team sports, the coaches and teammates count on every member of the team. They must practice and play together to realize their full potential. Therefore, if you choose a team sport, you must fully commit to the season, including all practice and competition dates.

If an athlete cannot commit to full participation in a team sport, they are welcome to participate in individual sports.

When athletes compete in a team sport and an individual sport whose schedules overlap, the athlete must prioritize the team sport. For example, if an athlete is a member of a basketball team and participates in an individual sport such as bowling, then basketball competitions much have priority over all bowling events. Suppose there is a competition/qualifier in bowling and basketball on the same day. In that case, the athlete **MUST** attend the basketball competition, **EVEN IF IT MEANS THEY DON'T QUALIFY FOR STATE COMPETITION IN BOWLING**. The basketball team sport takes precedence, and the athlete **MUST** attend the basketball competition vs. the individual sport competition.

If an athlete chooses a team sport and violates these rules, the athlete will not be eligible to sign-up for that team sport next year.