



2020 Special Olympics Oregon Virtual Fall Season Golf Information, Rules and Guidelines

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Fall Season Begins – September 2020**
 - Participants may sign up ANYTIME during the season as long as they submit their final scores before the November 9 deadline.
 - Participants are strongly encouraged to sign up early to begin training and to get connected to a virtual coach/mentor from their local program or another part of the state.
 - All virtual coaches/mentors will be Class A volunteers.
- **Fall Virtual Games Opening Ceremonies Monday, November 2, 2020**
- **Competition Week Scores Entry Period – Monday, November 2 to Monday, November 9, 2020**
- **Fall Virtual Games Celebration Week – November 16-20, 2020**

RULES/GUIDELINES

- The posted Special Olympics Oregon Fall Virtual Golf Rules shall govern competitions for this season.
- Due to the nature of these virtual events, there will be lots of flexibility allowed in the types of equipment used as well as allowances for a variety of settings for the field of play as some participants may have access to a golf course putting green or nearby park while others may need to get creative and use indoor carpet or another surface in their yard.
- Modifications will be permitted to enable as much participation as possible as long as they are safe and still support the integrity of the skills within each event.
- The “honor system” will be used when final scores are submitted.

SIGN UP, TRAINING & COMPETITION REMINDERS

- Complete the sport sign up process on-line, by phone or by mail any time before the end of season.
- Final Scores must be submitted during Competition Week – November 2-9, 2020.
- **Each athlete may enter ONE (1) Golf Event. See Levels listed below.**

SECTION A – OFFICIAL EVENTS

The following golf events MUST be done safely and with members of the participant’s household only. We recognize that some athletes are able to enjoy a round of golf safely with family or other members of their immediate household. This will be allowed where it is permitted. However, AT NO TIME shall athletes, Unified partners, or coaches from outside of the same household schedule or assemble to play a round of golf or practice at a course or in person. No exceptions.

- 1) Level 1 – Individual Skills Competition (ISC) - short putt and long putt (combined score) – Level 1 ISC putting skills events can be conducted in a variety of setting with permitted modifications based on availability of equipment and type of setting in which event is conducted (indoor carpeted area, backyard lawn or patio, local park or other setting).
- 2) Level 2 – 9 holes athlete with Unified Partner (member of own household) – Alternate Shot Team Play
- 3) Level 3 – 18 holes athlete with Unified Partner (member of own household) – Alternate Shot Team Play
- 4) Level 4 – 9 holes Individual Play
- 5) Level 5 – 18 holes Individual Play

SECTION B — DIVISIONING

- 1) While entry scores will not be used to create divisions, final scores will be collected and will be used to create divisions for awards recognition.
- 2) Because competition will be conducted virtually by each individual participant in a variety of settings, we will be operating on the honor system.
- 3) Course ratings will not be used so there will be variance in course difficulty and par. We recognize that this is not ideal but there are too many variables to try to account for that in this format.
- 4) Golfers will compete in one of three age groups:
 - a) Youth: ages 15 and under (May be split 8-11 and 12-15)
 - b) Adult: ages 16 and older
 - c) Open Age Group: reserved for combining age groups to meet the required minimum number of competitors or teams in a division, or to ensure quality competition.

Note: The oldest member of a unified team will determine the age division of the team. It is suggested that delegations form teams that are age appropriate. Male, female, and co-ed teams will be divisioned together unless there are enough teams within a category to create equitable divisions.

SECTION C – COURSE PLAY - Levels 2, 3, 4 and 5

- 1) Level 2-5 course play registration eligibility requirements
 - a) Athlete must meet the Special Olympics Oregon eligibility requirement in order for an athlete to compete in levels 2-5 course play.
- 2) Competition scoring for Level 2 and 3
 - a) Form of play
 - i) The form of play will be Foursome Rule 29 under the Rules of Golf (Alternate Shot) — The players play alternately from the teeing grounds and then alternate strokes until the ball is holed.

(1) Example: If player “A” plays from the tee on the odd-numbered holes, then player “B” would play from the tee on the even-numbered holes. Only one ball is in play on a hole. It is up to the team to decide who tees off first. There are no rules that say the athlete has to tee off on hole number one.
 - b) Scoring
 - i) Once the ball is in play on each hole, the players shall alternate turns hitting the ball until the ball is holed, or until double par has been played. Note: a swing and miss counts as a stroke.
 - ii) If a double par stroke is played without holing the shot, the team shall record a score of “double par X” and proceed to the next hole. For example, if a hole is listed as a par 4 and the golfer/s have recorded 8 strokes and the ball has not been holed, the golfer/s will record an 8X on their scorecard, pick up their ball and move on to the next tee box.
 - iii) Scoring (marking of cards) — Athletes should be taught to keep score and, whenever possible in competition, serve as a marker for a fellow competitor. The Competition Director may also appoint a volunteer, caddie or partner to serve as a marker. Both competitors on the team will be responsible for verifying the team score and signing their scorecard.
- 3) Competition scoring for Level 4 and 5
 - a) Form of play
 - i) The form of play shall be stroke play competition.
 - b) Scoring
 - i) If a double par stroke is played without holing the shot, the player shall record a score of “double par X” and proceed to the next hole. For example, if a hole is listed as a par 4 and the golfer/s have recorded 8 strokes and the ball has not been holed, the golfer/s will record an 8X on their scorecard, pick up their ball and move on to the next tee box.
 - ii) Scoring (marking of cards)

(1) Athletes should be taught to keep score and, whenever possible in competition, serve as a marker for a fellow competitor. The Competition Director may also appoint a volunteer or caddie to serve as a marker. The competitor will be responsible for verifying his/her own score and signing his/her scorecard.
- 4) Power cart –
 - a) Power carts will be permitted for participants based on course rules for virtual competition. Reminder - ANY round of golf at a course MUST be played with members of your own household only.

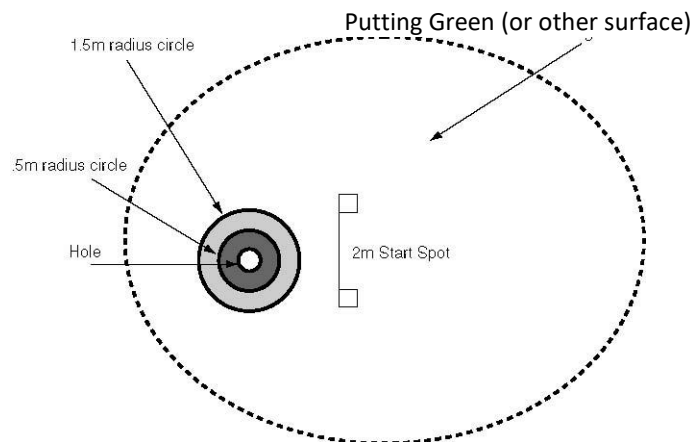
SECTION D – LEVEL 1 INDIVIDUAL SKILLS COMPETITION

Level 1 Individual Skills Competition (ISC) Putting will consist of two (2) events. TOTAL COMBINED SCORE for both putting events will be used to compile the FINAL SCORE for Level 1 ISC.

1) Short putt (maximum 20 points)

- a) Purpose
 - i) To measure the athlete's ability to putt, focusing on the short putt.
- b) Equipment
 - i) A regulation putting green with a properly marked (target) hole is ideal.
 - (1) Modifications such as a turf or grass field, indoor or outdoor carpet or other surface is acceptable.
 - (2) In many cases a hole is not available, a target (such as a tennis ball or other similar sized object) may be used instead.
 - ii) One putter (or other club or similar object that can hit ball)
 - iii) At least one golf ball.
 - iv) Small cones, ball markers or other small stationary objects may be used to mark outline of target areas.
 - v) Tape measure. If a tape measure is not available, use one (1) large step for each meter. A half step for .5 meter.
- c) Description
 - i) A target hole is created and two circles are placed around the hole. The first circle shall have a radius of 0.5m (half step) and the second shall have a radius of 1.5m (one and a half steps) from the hole.
 - ii) The athlete will have five attempts from a clearly marked spot, 2m (two steps) from the hole.
 - iii) The short putt should be set up on a green or other surface that is as flat as possible.
- d) Scoring
 - i) The participant will have five attempts to putt the ball at the hole from a line 2m from the hole, scoring points according to where the ball comes to rest.
 - ii) The athlete will score one point for making a stroke at, and striking the ball. (A swing and a miss count as one attempt, and the athlete receives a score of zero.)
 - iii) A second point is scored if the ball stops on or within the 1.5m radius circle.
 - iv) A third point is scored if the ball stops on or within the 0.5m radius circle.
 - v) If the ball goes in the hole, a total of four points will be awarded for that attempt.
The short putt score shall be the sum total of the five attempts.

Diagram for SHORT PUTT:



2) Long putt (maximum 20 points)

- a) Purpose
 - i) To measure the athlete's ability to putt, focusing on the long putt.
- b) Equipment
 - i) A regulation putting green with a properly marked (target) hole is ideal.
 - (1) Modifications such as a turf or grass field, indoor or outdoor carpet or other surface is acceptable.
 - (2) In many cases a hole is not available, a target (such as a tennis ball or other similar sized object) may be used instead.
 - ii) One putter (or other club or similar object that can hit ball)
 - iii) At least one golf ball.
 - iv) Small cones, ball markers or other small stationary objects may be used to mark outline of target areas.
 - v) Tape measure. If a tape measure is not available, use one (1) large step for each meter. A half step for .5 meter.
- c) Description
 - i) A target hole is selected and two circles are placed around the hole. The first circle shall have a radius of 0.5m (half step) and the second shall have a radius of 1.5m (one and a half steps) from the hole.
 - ii) The athlete will have five attempts from a marked spot, 8m (8 steps) from the hole.
 - iii) The long putt should be set up on a green with as flat a surface as possible. Note: Putting up or flat hill is recommended.
- d) Scoring
 - i) The participant will have five attempts to putt the ball at the hole from a spot 8m from the hole, scoring points according to where the ball comes to rest.
 - ii) The athlete will score one point for making a stroke at, and striking the ball. (A swing and a miss count as one attempt, and the athlete receives a score of zero).
 - iii) A second point is scored if the ball stops on or within the 1.5m radius circle.
 - iv) A third point is scored if the ball stops on or within the 0.5m radius circle.
 - v) If the ball goes in the hole, a total of four points will be awarded for that attempt.
 - vi) The long putt score shall be the sum total of the five attempts.

Diagram for LONG PUTT:

