

Official Finders Training: Special Olympics Illinois

Event arrival:

Please plan to arrive 10 minutes before your scheduled game time. Upon arriving to the facility, please check in with Special Olympics Illinois staff. Games may have been moved to another court/field or we may have moved Officials to another court/field.

At this time we will cover all rules as they may be different from IHSA, College, or Professional levels. We may also adjust quarter/half lengths, implement a running clock, shorten halftimes, etc.

Before each game:

Meet with each coach to discuss how to call the game based off ability level of the Special Olympics Athletes. For example: Basketball at a lower level will allow some traveling/double dribbling. A higher level game would call all violations; traveling, double dribble, etc.

During the game:

In a lower level game, violations must be enforced when the violation is giving that team an advantage; i.e. running up a score. If an athlete is continuously traveling or double dribbling and is giving their team a large lead, the violation must be called.

All basic rules and violations should be enforced such as fouls, out of bounds, and substitutions.

Various games may get intense! Please give coaches and athletes a verbal warning if their behavior is inappropriate. If the issue persists, we ask that you enforce technical and ejections as you see fit.

Weekday games:

Game start times are tentative. We are at the mercy of traffic and when schools can arrive. When needed, we will alter quarter/half lengths and implement a running clock. You will be paid for the number of games you cover regardless of the time frame.

Weekend games:

Our staff does their best to keep games on schedule. We host multiple games on the weekends, so we appreciate your patience and understanding when games run behind or go into overtime. As courts or fields become available in the afternoon, we will move games over to try and get back on schedule.

PLEASE CHECK IN WITH OUR STAFF BEFORE YOU LEAVE! WE WANT TO ENSURE THERE ARE NO MORE GAMES SCHEDULED AND ALL OFFICIALS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR.

Other Notes:

If at any time during a game you have any questions, please ask one of our volunteers to find a Special Olympics Illinois staff member. We want to ensure all rules, policies, and anything else is clarified to offer a quality competition experience to our athletes.

Thank you for your time and support,

Special Olympics Illinois Staff