



Special Olympics  
**Dutch Caribbean  
Kingdom Games**  
Curaçao 2025



# ***THE GAME IS ON!***

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS KINGDOM GAMES**

20 - 24 November Curaçao 2025



## INTRODUCTION & HIGHLIGHTS

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of the 2025 Dutch Caribbean Kingdom Games is committed to providing a memorable, world-class experience that will showcase the abilities and talents of Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners from across the Caribbean.

Highlights and targets for the 2025 Dutch Kingdom Games include:

- Goal of equal numbers of male and female participants
- Minimum of three Islands/countries participating in each tournament sport.
- 4 sports (Athletics, Soccer, Swimming and Bocce) and demonstration sport of powerlifting.
- Include all six Islands of the Dutch Caribbean and welcome participants from the European part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- Create a steppingstone for participants from the Dutch Caribbean Kingdom to the Special Olympics Nationale Spelen Haarlem 2026 and other events (including World Games in Chile).

## TIMELINE

- April 9, 2025: Interest forms to Programs
- April 30, 2025: Quota Request Due
- May 1, 2025: Registration forms distributed to Programs
- May 1, 2025: Registration System Opens
- May 24, 2025: Registration System Closes
- September 1, 2025: Qualifying Scores, Medical Forms & Program Travel Information Due

## GAMES SCHEDULE

*Tentative and subject to change*

20 November 2025:	Delegation Arrivals
21 November 2025:	Opening Ceremony
22-23 November 2025:	Competition
23 November 2025:	Closing Ceremony
24 November 2025:	Delegation Departures



## KEY POINTS OF EMPHASIS

### ALLOCATION OF DELEGATION MANAGEMENT

In addition to the roles and responsibilities listed below, all delegation management positions (including coaches) are required to provide support (where needed) to athletes off the field and assist with personal care. A person in these roles may not have sport-specific experience but should have experience in providing support and personal care for people with intellectual disabilities.

These duties include, but are not limited to:

- Care of Athletes (to include necessary personal care, medication management (per direction of team medic).
- Escorting or supporting athletes in moving around competition and non-competition venues as needed.

In preparation for the Games, coaches & all delegation staff must participate in additional virtual meetings/trainings as prescribed by SONA & LOC.

- **Head of Delegation (HOD):** Each Program will have 1 Head of Delegation.
- **Coaches:** A ratio of 1 coach for every 4 athletes/Unified partners will be implemented for Athletics, Bocce and Swimming. For each Football team there will be a maximum of 3 coaches allowed (1 Head Coach & 2 Assistant coaches per team).
- **Additional Staff (AS):** AS is defined as any additional coaches or support personnel who accompany a Delegation with the prior approval of SONA/LOC. The maximum permissible number of AS that can be requested must not exceed 10% of the total number of athletes and Unified Partners within a Delegation. Programs will be required to pay the Local Organizing Committee a fee per AS staff person (see Financial Obligations). Payment of this fee will permit "AS" members to be accredited as an official member of a Delegation and receive the same accommodation, transportation, and food service privileges.

### FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- Onsite costs (housing, meals, ground transportation) for delegation members (athletes, coaches and registered staff) are covered by LOC for all participants travelling to Curacao from 20-24 November 2025.
- The primary costs each Program will be responsible for may include transportation to/from Curacao, competition and general wear apparel, luggage, equipment, and training sessions/camps that may be conducted prior to the Games.
- Programs will pay a fee for each Additional Staff (AS) requested. The fees will be as follows: 500 US Dollar per AS-member.
- Delegations from countries that require passports to enter Curacao will be responsible for obtaining and paying passports themselves.
- Costs regarding additional taxes (ie: tourism taxes) will be the responsibility of the delegation.



- Delegations arriving prior to the commencement of the Games or remaining after scheduled departure by the LOC will be required to arrange and finance their own accommodations and meals.

### **PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Carefully review the “Advancement to Higher Levels of Competition” information to ensure the selection process meets the standards for participation.
- Athletics, Swimming & Football: The age for participation shall be 15 years of age and older by the date of the Closing Ceremony (24 November 2025).
- Bocce: The age for participation shall be 18 years of age and older by the date of the Opening Ceremony (20 November 2025). Athletes and Unified partners may participate in only one sport.
- It is highly recommended and encouraged that delegations request a gender balanced quota to assist in achieving the goal of equal numbers of male and female participants.
- Upon selection and leading up to the Games, athletes, Unified partners, and coaches must continue to train regularly in the sports and events that they are participating in at the Dutch Kingdom Games 2025.

### **MEDICAL FORMS**

- **An approved SOI medical form will need to be completed by all athletes and Unified partners competing at the Games. This form will be provided to Programs.**
- Medical forms submitted for athletes and Unified partners must be dated\* after 17 November 2024 and prior to the registration deadline for the Games. If there is a change to the person’s medical history or medication after the medical form has been submitted for registration, updated information will be required.

\*A medical form is considered complete when all required information has been provided and signed by a qualified healthcare professional.



## SPORTS GENERAL INFORMATION

*In addition to the information below, please carefully review the Sport & Event Listing included in this document.*

1. The 2024 Official Special Olympics Sports Rules book shall govern all Special Olympics sports competitions. The national governing body (or international sport federation where applicable) rules shall be employed except when in conflict with the Official Sports Rules. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall apply.
2. To ensure equitable gender participation there may be gender ratio requirements per sport (see specific sport details).
3. SONA/LOC reserve the right to remove a sport or event due to insufficient quota requests. If a reduction is made, a Program will have the option to move that quota request to another category/level within the same sport, or to move the request to another sport.
4. Performance Standards for participation will be established for certain individual sports events.
5. Composite teams made up of athletes and/or Unified partners from more than one Program are not allowed (subject to certain exceptions).
6. All Unified Sports teams participating should meet the criteria of Unified Sports competitive play.
7. Competition management reserves the right to combine gender, expand age groups and expand performance variance percentages as appropriate to create equitable and meaningful competition.



## ATHLETICS

### **TRACK EVENTS**

100m  
200m  
400m  
4x100m Relay

### **FIELD EVENTS**

Running Long Jump  
Softball Throw

### **ATHLETICS SPORT ENTRY INFORMATION**

#### ***Programs:***

- Are allowed to request a minimum of 4 athletes.

#### ***Athletes:***

- Athletes must be 15 years of age or older at the time of Closing Ceremony.
- An athlete may be registered in up to 3 events. A person can be listed as an alternate for a fourth event only in extenuating circumstances (injury or illness) as determined by Games medical team.
- An athlete must meet the event Performance Standard (below) to qualify for the event.
- Delegations are encouraged to put no more than 50% of athletes in a single event.  
Example: Program A has 4 athletics competitors and only 2 can compete in the 100m. This does not apply to relays.
- Mixed gender relays are allowed and will compete in the male division.

ATHLETICS		
Performance Standards		
Event	MALE Performance Standard	FEMALE Performance Standard
100m Run	≤ 21.67	≤ 26.56
200m Run	≤ 44.03	≤ 52.75
400m Run	≤ 01:39.05	≤ 02:01.37
Long Jump	≥ 2.72m	≥ 1.95m
Softball Throw	< 30m	< 30m
Relays	N/A	N/A





## BOCCE

### **BOCCE EVENTS**

Doubles (2 Person)

Unified Sports® Doubles (2 person: 1 athlete & 1 unified partner)

### **DOUBLES CONFIGURATION**

Programs can register Male, Female or Mixed doubles and/or teams.

- Gender ratios that are permissible:
  - Mixed Gender = Balance of Males & Females (1:1 in doubles or 2:2 team)
  - Male = All Males (2 males in doubles or 4 males in team)
  - Female = All Females (2 females in doubles or 4 females in team)
  - Ability will supersede gender – if divisions cannot be comprised strictly by mixed gender teams, then teams will play in male divisions.

### **BOCCE SPORT ENTRY INFORMATION**

#### ***Programs:***

- Are allowed to request a minimum of 2 athletes or 1 athlete & 1 Unified partner.

#### ***Athletes:***

- Athletes & Unified partners must be 18 years of age or older at the date of Opening Ceremony.
- May select ONLY one (1) doubles event (traditional or unified)
- May select ONLY one (1) team event (traditional or unified)
- Competitors using a ramp must follow the current Special Olympics Ramp Bocce rules. Athletes using ramps will be placed in separate divisions in singles competition ONLY. Ramp singles will only be offered if there are enough competitors to create a meaningful competition.



## SWIMMING

### **SWIMMING EVENTS**

50 m Freestyle  
50 m Breast  
50 m Back

### **RELAY EVENTS**

4X50 Freestyle

The competition will take place in a 50m pool.

### **SWIMMING SPORT ENTRY INFORMATION**

#### ***Programs:***

- Are allowed to request a minimum of 4 athletes.

#### ***Athletes:***

- Athletes must be 15 years of age or older at the time of Closing Ceremony.
- An athlete may be registered in up to 3 events. A person can be listed as an alternate for a fourth event only in extenuating circumstances (injury or illness) as determined by Games medical team.
- An athlete must meet the event Performance Standard (below) to qualify for the event.
- Only 50% of athletes compete in a single event. Example: Program A has 4 swimming competitors; only 2 can compete in the 50m freestyle. This does not apply to relays.
- Mixed gender relays are allowed and will compete in the male division.

SWIMMING		
Performance Standards		
Event	MALE Performance Standard	FEMALE Performance Standard
50 Free	≤ 47.16	≤ 59.54
50 Breast	≤ 01:10.34	≤ 01:25.22
50 Back	≤ 01:02.22	≤ 01:15.56





## 7v7 FOOTBALL

### Unified Sports Competition

- Coaches are not allowed to play as Unified partners.
- Delegations with more than one team in a sport must designate a different Head Coach for each team.
- All teams competing in the Unified Sports competition must be composed according to the requirements of the Unified Sports Competitive model. More information can be found in Article 1 of the Special Olympics Rules.
- In team sports, each team is required to play all eligible and able-bodied team members in every game unless a player is injured, as determined by Games medical and Delegation Medical team, or has been removed due to disciplinary reasons or sickness/illness. Coaches must notify the competition management prior to each game if players on the approved team roster will not be playing. Failure to play all eligible team members in each game will result in penalties, up to and including forfeiture and disqualification.

### Similar Age Requirement

- Members of Team Sports **MUST** be within the following similar age ranges:
  - If all the members of a team are 18 years old and older, the variance between the youngest and oldest member of the team should be no more than 20 years.
  - If any member of a team is between the ages of 16 -17 (at the time of the Games) the variance between the youngest and oldest member of the team must be no more than 5 years.
- These parameters are *required* in Football.

### Similar Ability Requirement

- Athletes and partners should be of similar ability as described in Article I – Sport Rules. Please note that the Unified Sports Competitive model is not exclusive to high ability Unified partners and athletes. While the Unified Sports Competitive model emphasizes the importance of having team members of similar ability it does not prescribe that they must be of high ability only. Teams can be composed of lower ability participants if the team members are of similar ability. Ability may be considered before gender when divisioning. If divisions cannot be comprised strictly by mixed gender teams, then teams will play in male divisions.

### Roster Size

Please review sport specific roster size information carefully.

Roster Size	Similar Age	Similar Ability	Field of Play Ratio (A:P)	Roster Ratio (A:P)		
				10	11	12
10-12	Required	Required	4:3	5:5	6:5	7:5   6:6