



We hope your summer is going well! It has been a busy summer for Special Olympics Kansas with the recently completed [USA Games](#) in Seattle and [Unified Cup and 50th Anniversary Celebration](#) in Chicago. Did you know that 6 students from Wichita competed in the First International Special Olympics Summer Games in 1968 and were the forerunners of Special Olympics Kansas. [Find out more about the history of Special Olympics and Special Olympics Kansas.](#)

As the summer crosses it's halfway point and soon moves into August, we have a lot of sports coming up across the state. Spikes and Strikes, formerly Fall Classic, will take place in less than two weeks and then teams will begin practicing for fall sports. If you're ever interested in trying out a new sport with your team, please reach out to us to see how we can help. We are here to support you and your athletes.

In this issue of our Monthly Coaches Newsletter you will find information about an upcoming [Flag Football Clinic](#), [Unified Generation](#), [Fit Families/Fit Friends Challenge](#), [30th Annual Heartland Winter Games](#), the next [Coaches Conference Call](#), [Upcoming Fundraising Events](#), [State Fall Sports Schedule](#) and more. There is lots of good and relevant information in this email so please take some time to look over all of it.

## UNIFIED GENERATION

**The Special Olympics movement might have started on playing fields in 1968, but today it is in full swing in classrooms all around the world! Learn more about the #UnifiedGeneration leading the fight for an inclusive world: [generationunified.org](http://generationunified.org)**

We are actively working to expand the Unified Sports League across the entire state!

Since 2013, SOKS has been growing a Unified Sports League in KC and Topeka made primarily of school-based Unified Sports teams for basketball (fall), bocce (winter) and soccer (spring). Sports are held in opposite seasons to traditional SOKS sports to allow athletes to participate in both Unified and traditional SOKS programming. The benefit here is that an athlete can focus on fewer sports and have more opportunities to improve those sports skills. We want to expand that program across the state.

Program start-up funds are available for new middle school and high school programs coming on-board in the 2018-19 school year.

Interested administrators, teachers, coaches or parents should contact Chris Burt at [burtc@kssso.org](mailto:burtc@kssso.org) or 913-236-9290 x107 about how you can get your school going.

[Click here for more information on Unified Sports](#)

## FLAG FOOTBALL CLINIC

Join Special Olympics Kansas for a Flag Football Coaches' Clinic! The clinic will cover how to get a flag football team started, rules, equipment, organization, strategy and a game demonstration. The clinic is geared towards coaches but athletes and families are welcome to join. Pre-register for a chance to win a flag football team set.

Date: August 29th  
Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm  
Location: Prairie Center Park, Field C, 555 N. Olathe View Road, Olathe, KS

Even if you don't think you're interested in starting a flag football team, we encourage each local program to send a coach or representative to find out more.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

## JOHN L. CASSIDY HEARTLAND WINTER GAMES

If your athlete has never participated in Winter Games, please consider this opportunity for them to try out a new sport! Competition is held for all skills levels, including beginner, and athletes can compete in one or all of the events. The best part yet is that it's FREE. The cost for facility rentals, lift tickets, rental equipment, training clinics and the competition is raised by the Heartland Winter Games Auction and Dinner. [Click here to download the informational flyer and find out more.](#)



## NEXT COACHES CONFERENCE CALL

We invite all SOKS coaches to let their voice be heard and to hear directly from our CEO, John Lair, on our quarterly coaches conference call. Ask questions, find out about upcoming organization initiatives and more. If you have a topic that you would like to make sure we discuss in advance, please let us know.

Date: August 8, 2018  
Time: 6:30pm - 7:30pm  
The number - in KC (913 Area Code) - 693-9100  
outside KC area code) - 1-866-855-9609  
Passcode - 153836#

## FALL SPORTS STATE COMPETITION SCHEDULE

**Charles E. Watson Softball and Golf Tournament**  
October 5-7, 2018  
Sierra Hills and Two Rivers Youth Club, Wichita  
Click [HERE](#) for more information.



**State Soccer and Bocce Tournament**  
November 11, 2018  
Loan Elm Park, 21151 W 167th St, Olathe  
Click [HERE](#) for more information.

## UPCOMING FIT FAMILIES/FIT FRIENDS CHALLENGE

Fit Families/Fit Friends is a 6-week fitness challenge for athletes and their supporters (family members or others) to get active and healthy together. Groups track their physical activity and nutrition in a weekly journal and submit their progress along the way. The challenge offers incentives as families/teams work towards a healthier lifestyle. Participants can repeat the challenge in efforts toward year round fitness.



Fit Families Start Up Packet includes:

- T-shirts and pedometer to each team member sign up
- Water bottle and Nutrition White Board
- Nutrition guidebook and suggested goals
- Family commitment cards
- Enrollment forms, survey, journal layout, nutrition calendar, and activity calendar

Families who complete the challenge and all required documents will receive a team reward at the end of the 6 weeks!

Interested? [Complete this quick initial interest form!](#) Please share with any families in your [local program that may be interested.](#)

## ONLINE COURSES

Have some extra time this summer? We will begin scheduling some in-person clinics for the fall soon, but in the meantime become the best coach you can be and invest some time in [one of these free online coaching courses.](#)

## UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Law Enforcement Officers throughout Kansas host and participate in many different types of fundraisers throughout the year to benefit the Special Olympics Kansas. Current LETR programs are [detailed here.](#)

Other fundraising events from around the state can be found on our [website here.](#)

We encourage you to get involved as a fundraiser, participant or bring some athletes out to show support for our LETR and other fundraisers.

Check those pages and stay connected with Special Olympics Kansas on Social Media for the most up to date info!

- [Follow us on Facebook](#)
- [Follow us on Twitter](#)
- [Follow us on Instagram](#)
- [Follow us on Flickr](#)

## 2019 STATE BASKETBALL DATES

West - Hays - March 15 & 16, 2019  
East - Topeka - March 23 & 24, 2019

## Questions? Comments?

Please contact Chris Burt, Vice President of Health and Community Outreach, at [burtc@kssso.org](mailto:burtc@kssso.org) or 913-236-9290 x107.

