



Special Olympics Eastern Region Badminton Tournament

Saturday 18th May, 2019

New venue
Gainsborough Sport Centre, 5, Braziers Wood
Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 0SP

Helping make Suffolk
ENGLAND'S

MOST ACTIVE COUNTY



IPSWICH
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Entry Pack

General Information

Welcome to the annual Special Olympics Eastern Region Doubles Badminton Tournament hosted by Special Olympics Suffolk and ActivLives in the county town of Ipswich. The event is being generously supported by Suffolk County Council's 'Most Active County' initiative, ActivLives and Ipswich Borough Council. This is a Special Olympics GB sanctioned event.

This will be the third time that this event has been held. We hope that you enjoy the tournament and your visit to Suffolk.

This will be a doubles event and will also include a 'Team Relay' competition in the second part of the day.

The schedule will include Men's (including a Unified division), Women's and Mixed Doubles. The 'Team Relay' competition will be based upon the format used for the first time last year at the Youth Olympics.

Provisional Schedule

- 9.00 Registration Opens
NB Players can use the courts to warm up on arrival
- 9.45 Head Coaches Briefing
- 10.00 Opening Ceremony (All players and coaches on court, Oaths, Hand-shakes and Welcome)
- 10.30 Morning Session - Men's (including a Unified division), Women's and Mixed Doubles
- 1.30 Afternoon Session - Completion of the morning events and the Team Relay
- 3.45 Awards Ceremony and Thanks

Please note that times may vary during the actual competition depending upon numbers and divisions.

We will decide about the timing of the lunch break nearer the time when we confirm the schedule for the day and email this to all Head Coaches. We may not stop play for lunch depending upon numbers and scheduling.

All of the matches, and the awards ceremony, will be held in the Sports Hall.

How to enter

Entry Form

All Entry Forms (see attached) must be fully completed and submitted by email to Mike McCarthy (mike@activlives.org.uk) or by post to 'Special Olympics Badminton Tournament', ActivLives, Brightspace, 160 Hadleigh Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 0HH and received by 5pm on Tuesday 30th April, 2019.

All doubles pairings should be clearly identified on the Entry Form. Players should not enter as individuals.

If you have/are a player who would like to play in an event but is without a partner, please contact Mike McCarthy (mike@activlives.org.uk) directly before entering and we will endeavor to try and assist you to find a partner.

Tick the box on the Entry Form if you would like to play in the Team Relay event - we hope that everyone will want to. We will assign players to teams - you don't need to be part of one when you enter!

Incomplete Entry Forms will be returned to relevant Head Coaches and pairs will not be entered into the competition until the form is rectified.

Late entries will not be accepted without justifiable extenuating circumstances.

Entry Fees

The entry fees for this competition will be as follows:

- £12 per player this includes one Doubles event and the Team Relay.

All fees must be paid by **5pm on Tuesday 30th April, 2019.**

There will be no charge for spectators at this event.

Cheques must be made payable to 'Special Olympics Suffolk' and sent to Mike McCarthy (Special Olympics Badminton Tournament, ActivLives, Brightspace, 160 Hadleigh Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 0HH) with completed Entry Forms. Please do not send cash through the post.

Payments can also be made by BACS to:

Account Name: Special Olympics Suffolk
Sort code: 309455
Account Number: 58400668

We reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone whose forms and payments are not returned complete by the deadline.

Entry fees are not refundable.

Venue

Please note that the venue for this event is different this year - it will be at Gainsborough Sports Centre, 5 Braziers Wood Road, Ipswich, IP3 OSP. There is plenty of free parking available on site.

The competition will take place in the Main Sports Hall. When you arrive come upstairs to the Community Room to register.

The hall has four badminton courts. There is lift access to the upstairs facilities.

Toilet and Changing

Accessible toilet, changing and showering facilities are available at the venue.

Refreshments

Refreshments (including homemade cakes and sandwiches), will be available to purchase at the venue, upstairs in the Community Room. Food and drink (other than water bottles), should not be taken into the Sports Hall.

Spectators

There is plenty of space available for spectators to sit on the balcony. Only Players, Coaches and Volunteer Officials should go into the Main Sports Hall. Spectators are kindly asked to not go into the hall whilst play is in progress.

Accommodation

There are plenty of accommodation options in the Ipswich area.

Transport

Car parking is available at the venue.

There is a local bus service from Ipswich town centre - bus number's 1 and 2 stop outside the centre.

First Aid and Medical

There will be first aid cover at the event provided by the venue hosts - Ipswich Borough Council (IBC). Should the need arise, IBC will be responsible for calling the emergency services.

It is the Head Coaches responsibility to ensure that **all** individuals attending the competition as part of their squad complete either an Athletes [Health Information Form](#) or a [Volunteers Health Information Form](#). The Head Coach must keep a copy of this on them at all times during the competition.

Insurance

The event is covered by third party liability insurance, through Special Olympics GB.

Photos/Videos

Cameras will not be registered at this event. If you are taking photographs please do this responsibly and do not distract players during the games.

The standard [Special Olympics GB Athlete & Unified Partner Release Form](#) gives Special Olympics GB permission to use an athlete/unified partners name and any photos taken of them in the press or for publicity to promote Special Olympics. If this permission has not been given for an athlete/unified partner, it is the responsibility of the Head Coach to notify the Event Manager in advance so that appropriate action can be taken.

The organisers of this event will be taking photographs and the local press will be invited to attend. Please inform the organisers if you, or any of your players, do not wish to be photographed.

Eligibility Information

Athlete/Unified Partner Eligibility

All athletes and unified partners entering this Special Olympics Badminton Tournament must:

- ✓ Be at least **8 years old** on the day of the competition
- ✓ Have been diagnosed as having an **intellectual disability** (i.e. they meet the [Special Olympics GB eligibility criteria](#)). This is not applicable to unified partners
- ✓ Have a current active **SAM registration as an Athlete or Unified Partner**

- ✓ Have been assessed by a coach using the [Special Olympics GB Badminton Player Rating Form](#)
- ✓ Have completed sufficient training (see the [Competition Advancement Pathway](#))
- ✓ Be technically capable of competing at the level of competition that they are entering
- ✓ Abide by the [Athlete & Unified Partner's Code of Conduct](#) at all times

Volunteer (Coach/Escort) Eligibility

All volunteers who are travelling with a delegation and fulfilling a specific role should be registered with Special Olympics GB no less than 6 months prior to this event). The registration process includes:

- Completion of the [Special Olympics GB registration process](#)
- Compliance with the DBS/PVG requirements
- Compliance with the [Volunteers Code of Conduct](#)

Volunteers should meet the minimum age requirement of 16 on the date of this event. Volunteers who are 16 & 17 years of age should only be assigned to fulfill supervised roles.

Head Coaches

Head Coaches must be appointed by their relevant Special Olympics GB Club/Region and are required to attend the Head Coaches briefing which will be held on the day of the competition. Head Coaches are also responsible for submitting all of the forms relating to the tournament and checking that all individuals are entered into the correct events at the appropriate level for their playing standard.

Head Coaches should keep a photocopy of every form that is submitted. They are also responsible for managing their players during the competition.

Athlete to Volunteer (Coach/Escort) ratio

The maximum ratio of Athletes to Volunteers (coach/escorts) for this event is 4:1.

Further Information regarding this tournament

Events

All participants can enter a maximum of one doubles event plus the Team Relay.

Head Coaches and Athletes - We would like to encourage all players to play in the Doubles Competition and the Team Relay. If you are looking for a partner for the Doubles please contact Mike McCarthy about this before you submit the Entry Form and we will try to help.

Please note that we will assume that all players will want to participate in the Team Relay event. If this is not the case please indicate this on your Entry Form.

Competition Format

- All competitors at this event will need to be SAM registered and have been assessed using the [Special Olympics GB Badminton Player Rating Form](#)
- The format for each of the doubles events will be round robin groups. The groups will be divisioned based upon the Player Ratings submitted on the Entry Form and

according to Special Olympics Sports Rules. Every effort will be made to ensure that these groups are as closely matched as possible in terms of ratings

- Doubles pairings will be divisioned by adding the two player's ratings together and dividing by two. Therefore in the case of a pairing with a player rated at 5.0 playing with a partner rated at 4.0 the pairing will have a rating of 4.5. Wherever possible players being partnered should have a rating of within 2 points of each other. (Please note that at Special Olympics events a rating difference greater than 2 points is discouraged by raising the lower rating to within 2 points of the higher rating when calculating the pair rating)
- Placings within the groups will be determined by the number of points won in all of the matches. If two pairs have the same points total at the end of the competition then their performance against each other will be taken into account to determine which of the two is placed higher in the final group standings
- ***Unified Doubles** will operate on the same basis as the other events. All players will need to be SAM registered (as an Athlete or as a Unified Partner) and have a Player Rating.
- Dependent upon entries, it may be necessary to have mixed pairs playing in the same division as single sex pairs in an event/division.
- All games will be played to 21 (there will be no deuce at 20 all). The number of games per match in each group will be decided when all of the entries have been received. This may vary between divisions. Head Coaches will be informed of this a week before the event when the groups and divisions have been confirmed
- Plastic shuttles will be used at this event (Yellow and white will be available)
- Service in the first game will be decided by the hitting of a shuttle into the air dependent upon which way it faces when it lands
- The winning pair in the first game will serve first in the next (if applicable)
- We plan to have an Umpire and Line Judge for each match

*** Unified Doubles** - Special Olympics Unified Sports promotes inclusion through bringing together people with intellectual disabilities (known as Athletes) and people without (known as Unified Partners), to train and compete on the same teams and in the same competitions. Each Unified Doubles pairing must therefore be made up of **one Special Olympics GB SAM registered Athlete and one Special Olympics GB SAM registered Unified Partner**. These pairings should be of similar age and ability.

Format for the Team Relay

This is a format that was used at the Youth Olympics in 2018 - Have a look at the final on this clip <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=fmeA6QTlCnM>. The Team Relay match starts at 3:31:30 on the clip. We won't be following quite the same format as they used in Buenos Aires, but we will be using a similar structure for our event.

As the name suggests, it is a team event that is based upon all members of each team playing in a series of 'mini-matches' on one court, with a cumulative team/match score.

- All of the players will be placed into a team based upon their player rating
- All of the teams will be 'balanced' in terms of playing standards, so each team will include players from across the rating spectrum
- Each team will consist of 4-6 players dependent upon entries
- Each team will be assigned a coach for this event

- Each match will consist of a pre-determined mixture of doubles and singles games each up to a set number of points to be determined on the day according to entries.
- The winning team will be the first to reach an agreed score, the target number of points will be decided on the day dependent upon the number of players and games involved.
- This event will either be run on a knockout or round robin basis, dependent upon numbers.
- All players in the team must play and there will be restrictions on how many games any one competitor can play
- Awards will be presented to all members of the winning teams.

Badminton Rules

The competition will run in accordance with [Article 1 of the Special Olympics Sports Rules](#), the current [Official Special Olympics Sports Rules](#) and the Laws of Badminton as recognised by Badminton England

http://system.bwf.website/documents/folder_1_81/Regulations/Laws/Part%20II%20Section%201A%20-%20Laws%20of%20Badminton%20-%20June%202016%20Revised%202.pdf

Please note that there will be some specific exceptions to this as detailed above.

Maximum Effort Rule

Coaches must ensure that competitors participate honestly and with maximum effort in all divisioning and/or final competition as per [Article 1 of the Special Olympics Sports Rules \(section J\)](#). Individuals who are identified as not participating to their full potential with the intent of being placed in a lower division may be disqualified from the tournament.

Divisioning

Divisioning will be done in accordance with [Article 1 of the Special Olympics Sports Rules \(section I\)](#) and as described above.

Kit, shoes and equipment

All competitors must be appropriately dressed and wearing non-marking indoor sports shoes. Head Coaches are reminded that competition uniform must be in accordance to the regulations as per the [Special Olympics General Rules \(Section 5.08\)](#).

Officials decisions and etiquette

- The Officials decision is final at all times
- All players, coaches and spectators are asked to respect the efforts of all of the players and volunteer officials throughout the day
- Players are asked to shake hands with their partner, opponents and officials at the conclusion of each match
- Spectators are asked to show their appreciation of the efforts of all players throughout the day.

Protests and Appeals

Protests will only be accepted from the Head Coach and must be put in writing on the appropriate [Protest and Appeal Form](#) and submitted **within 30 minutes** of the conclusion of the event in question but before any awards presentations. All protests must be accompanied by a **£20** deposit (which will be refunded if the protest is upheld). Video recordings will not be acceptable as evidence to support a protest and protests

relating to divisioning or an Officials decision will not be accepted. The Tournament Committee will review all protests. Their decision shall be final.

Awards

Medals will be awarded to the first three pairs in each division, irrespective of how many competitors there are. Certificates will be awarded to the pairs/teams who finish in all of the remaining places in each division.

Alcohol and Tobacco

All delegations are reminded that as detailed in [Article 5 of the Special Olympics General Rules](#), **no alcohol or tobacco products** are allowed at any Special Olympics training or competition venue. In addition to this, it is Special Olympics GB policy that no member of a delegation may consume alcohol at any time while Special Olympics has 'duty of care' responsibility for Special Olympics Athletes or Unified Partners.

Final Note

The closing date for entries is **Tuesday 30th April, 2019**. If you do have any queries please email Mike McCarthy at mike@activlives.org.uk or telephone 01473 345350.

We look forward to seeing you on the **18th May!**