



## **2022 USA Games**

June 5-11, 2022  
Orlando, Fla.

### Team Louisiana Athlete/Unified Partner Selection Process

**Team Louisiana will consist of the following sports:** Athletics, Bocce, Bowling, Powerlifting, Swimming, Flag Football (Unified), Basketball (Unified), Softball (Unified) and Volleyball (Unified)

#### **Details**

- **How to qualify:**
  - **Individual sports:** For any state-level competition held in 2018, 2019 or 2020, all athletes and Unified Partners who win gold medals in the individual sports listed above will be eligible to be nominated for a chance to be on Team Louisiana. Application will be available on [laso.org](http://laso.org) from Jan 15 – March 31, 2021.
  - **Team sports:** For any state-level competition held in 2018, 2019 or 2020, all athletes & Unified Partners who win gold medal in team sports listed above will be eligible to be nominated AS A TEAM for a chance to be on Team Louisiana. Application will be available on [laso.org](http://laso.org) from Jan 15 – March 31, 2021.
- Athletes and partners must have competed for at least 2 years in Special Olympics
- Athlete and partners must be 14 years of age to be considered
- Athletes and partners who have gone to World/USA Games ARE allowed to go again, but we will give preference to those who have NOT been before.
- Athletes, partners and coaches should be capable of travelling 5-10 miles every day either on foot or using a walker or wheelchair. Accommodations are typically available for those who cannot, but the USA Games organization committee hasn't given us details on what those are quite yet.

- Athletes and partners can be nominated by anyone. The nominations need to be submitted online. They will be approved by the area/local program before passing them along to our headquarters office.
  - Teams should be nominated as teams, not as individuals.
- In April and May 2021, SOLA staff, USA Games coaches and sports managers will screen all athletes and partners who have been nominated. Final selections will be made during this process.
- Actively prepare for and participate in the following trainings: Two sport-specific one-day training sessions along with one Team Louisiana Clinic/Camp Spring 2022 and any other trainings scheduled by SOLA.
- We know athletes are good in their sports, but what we're looking for at trainings and camps is sportsmanship, teamwork, and behavior.
- All candidates will receive a letter to let them know if they have made the team.
- After being selected, athletes, Unified Partners, and coaches are required to act as a role model and conduct yourself with in the Special Olympics Code of Conduct at all times. We do reserve the right to remove anyone from the team if we feel they aren't living up to the Code of Conduct.

**Financial Requirements:** Individuals are expected to cover expenses associated with serving as a member of Team Louisiana. The cost for athletes and Unified Partners will be \$500. The cost for coaches will be \$500. Most people fundraise to cover their costs. SOLA will provide resources and opportunities to help you raise money.

**Time Commitment -- At least one year**

- Serve and fulfill responsibilities from the time of appointment through the end of the 2022 USA Games
- Attend multiple training sessions and team practices in 2021 and 2022
- Expect to be in Orlando for roughly 10 days in June 2022 not just the dates of the actual competition

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