Local Program Competition Call
Winter 2019-20
2019-20 Competition Dates:

- **Staffing changes:** Gina Reid officially moving to the field department; Bruce Bach is your contact for competitions.

- **2020 Competition Calendar: Important Dates**

- **Bowling Sectionals:**
  - West - Erie: January 18
  - Central - Harrisburg: January 19
  - East - Allentown: January 26

- **Winter Games** - Seven Springs: February 9-11

- **Indoor Winter Games** - York, PA: March 7-8

- **Spring Sectionals:**
  - West - Carnegie Mellon University: April 25
  - Central - St. Francis University: April 26
  - East - Kutztown University: May 2

- **Summer Games** - Penn State University: June 11-13
Improving Communication:

FACEBOOK COACH GROUP:

- 100% Optional
- Direct connection to coaches
- Share Competition Information/Reminders
- Share Training/Coaching Tips
- Encourage sharing of best practices between coaches
- Q&A
- Coach Page

SOPA WEBSITE
2020 Allocations

- Currently posted: Bowling, Winter Games, Indoor Winter Games
- Allocations can be found on the SOPA Website
  - SOPA State Events Page
- As always, please remember that you can request additional allocations through the LOI process.
- Our most recent Lunch & Learn was on the allocation process. This riveting presentation can be found here: Allocation L&L
2021 World Winter Games - Sweden

- Slots:
  - Alpine Skiing
    - 1 Male (Category 1)
    - 1 Female (Category 1)
    - 1 Male (Category 3)
  - Cross Country Skiing
    - 1 Female (Category 2)
  - Short Track Speed Skating
    - 1 Female (Category 1)
    - 1 Male (Category 2)
  - Snowshoe
    - 1 Male (Category 3)

- Due to space constraints Floor Hockey is not being hosted at these games, Floorball will be hosted.
- SOI/SONA still sponsoring Floor Hockey
2021 World Winter Games - Sweden

● PROCESS:
  ○ Athlete questionnaire
  ○ Athlete selection
  ○ SONA application - mid-December
  ○ Team USA Training Camp
    ■ February 19-24 - Copper Mountain, Colorado
  ○ Spring/Summer - World Games paperwork, passports, medicals

● GAMES:
  ○ February 6-12, 2021
  ○ Travel time will likely be from Jan 28-February 15

● SO USA Assistant coach and medical applications currently open
2020-21 Delegation Fees

- Reminder we will be reviewing and adjusting these prices in even years - will reflect actual costs to SOPA for housing and meals
- Fees for volunteers above the 1:4 ratio
- Will begin with Winter Games 2020

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>2020 &amp; 2021 Fees - above 4:1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Games</td>
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<td>$10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor Winter Games</td>
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<td>$5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Games</td>
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<td>$5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Fest</td>
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<td>$20</td>
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</table>
Sport Rule Updates

SOI Updates their rule book every two years, 2018 Sport Rules are the most recent updates
6.5.1

During competition, the competitor moves out of the general direction of the line of the course (fall, miss a gate, lose a ski, etc.) he/she shall have a set amount of time from the time of deviation to re-enter the course.

6.5.2

A competitor who fails to adhere to this time limit, or receives assistance of any kind, shall be disqualified. The time limit for Novice skiers, Intermediate, and Advanced skiers shall be one minute. Disqualification shall be determined on the gate card by the Gate Judge assigned to the gate closest to where the infraction occurred. The Gate Judge is responsible for timing advancement.
Alpine Skiing - Helmets

- Memo from SOI Sports Department, dated January 2017, outlined new specifications that Alpine competition helmets are required to meet - as per FIS rules.
- From what we have heard from you, these helmets are not available from any of the rental shops where we train and compete across the state.
- We are talking with other SO programs from Alaska to Maine to determine how they are going to navigate the new rule... so we are not alone with concerns!
- I am accumulating notes from our local programs to express our concerns to SOI, please send me any additional notes that you might have by COB on Friday 11/15 so I can complete my draft.
- I will work with the SOPA Alpine Sports Committee to find a resolution that minimizes financial impact on the program and the participation of the athletes - while ensuring the safety of all parties.
Figure Skating - Singles Program

- Music for programs may be instrumental or vocal.

- **Special Olympics Figure Skating Badge curriculum**
  - Badges are $1 each and can be purchased from US Figure Skating: Susi Wehrli McLaughlin, swehrli@usfigureskating.org

- The SOI Figure Skating Team has created video resources for the badge program, solo and pair routines: [Figure Skating Resource Page](#)

- Figure Skating Questions can be directed to Lin Huber: huberstable@gmail.com
Bowling - Uniform Clarification

The SOI Bowling Rule 3.5.2 states that uniform tops must be short sleeved and collared.

While we encourage programs to abide by this rule, we will NOT punish those programs that do not meet the required apparel. If you are purchasing we ask that you work to meet the guidelines.
● Hopeful that Snowboarding will be named an Emerging Sport for SOPA
  ○ Will confirm in December
● This will allow snowboarding events to be run and medaled at Winter Games 2020
● We gave minimal initial allocations in this sport based on past participation.
  ○ Please indicate interest for # of snowboarding participants on your LOI
● Final allocations will reflect # of snowboarders competing in the Games.
General Rules:

Links to all the sport pages can be found here:
https://www.specialolympics.org/our-work/sports

Winter Sport Rules:

Alpine Skiing
Bowling
Cross Country Skiing
Figure Skating
Floor Hockey
Snowboarding
Snowshoeing
Speed Skating
Pre-season Coach webinars

Fall coach webinars were well received.

Planning to run Winter Sport webinars for:

- Snowshoeing - Tom Meeren, Sport Director
- Figure Skating - Lin Huber, Sport Director

Working with Sport Directors to set date, hoping to host by end of 2019.

Our goal is to conduct these for each sport either yearly or every other year.
Bowling Sectionals
Bowling Google Registration

We will use the Google Registration process for all bowling sectionals this year!

- All event registration for Athletes and Unified Partners will be on one tab
- It is IMPERATIVE that you list team designations for your doubles and team participants!
- A webinar on the registration process will be included with the mailing. Please make sure this webinar is shared with the person managing your bowling registration.
Bowling Registration

- **Important Dates - All same to work around holidays**
  - LOI: Due December 16th
  - Final allocations: December 17th
  - Vsys Roster: Due December 19th
  - Registration Link: Shared December 20th
  - Reg: Due Jan. 6th (West/Central) - Jan 9th (East)
**WBS: January 18th**

- **Important Dates:**
  - Scratch/Activation: Due January 13th

- **Pre-Event Webinar:**
  - Tentatively, January 8th

- **Bowling Houses:**
  - Eastway Lanes
  - Greengarden Lanes
  - Westway Lanes
CBS: January 19th

- **Pre-Event Webinar: Tentatively, January 6th**
  - Opening Ceremony changes
  - Parking
  - Staggered start
  - Sheetz “to-go”

- **Bowling Houses:**
  - ABC North
  - ABC West
  - ABC East
EBS: January 26th

- Important Dates:
  - Scratch/Activation: Due January 20th
- Pre-Event Webinar:
  - Tentatively, Tuesday, January 14th
- Allentown:
  - Haja Rose Bowl
  - Jordan Lanes
  - Hampton Lanes
State Games
Winter Games
Feb 9-11

- Pre-Event Webinar: Tentatively January 28th
- Important Dates:
  - Reg Info will be out on December 13th
  - LOI due January 2nd
  - Reg due January 16th
  - Scratch/Activation due February 3rd
- Snowboarding!
Indoor Winter Games
March 7-8, 2020

- Pre-Event Webinar: February 19th 7:00 pm
- Important Dates:
  - Reg Info: Will be sent by January 10th
  - LOI: Due January 30th
  - Final Allocations: January 31st
  - Vsys Roster: Due February 3rd
  - Registration Link: Shared February 4th
  - Reg: Due February 13th
  - Scratch/Activation: Due March 2nd
A Look at the Venues
Indoor Winter Games Logistics:

- IWG is an overnight event

- Housing:
  - Local hotels will be utilized for housing
  - Friday night housing available for counties traveling further distances

- Expo Center:
  - Floor Hockey venue
  - VIP/Young Athletes
  - Opening Ceremonies
  - Olympic Village
  - Dance
  - Healthy Athletes
Indoor Winter Games Logistics:

- **Communication**
  - Was an issue in 2019 with last minute weather changes
  - Will better utilize SOPA Competition APP
  - We will have solid contingency plans in place for weather

- **Transportation**
  - Shuttles will be available on a loop between venues
  - There is **NO** transportation to and from hotels

- **Consolidation of Schedules (if needed):**
  - Will develop a consolidated schedule in case weather predicts we need to shorten competition
Webinar Series:

- Lunch & Learn - will be RECORDED and posted to SOPA website, Volunteer Center, Training School and Webinar (blue button), Lunch & Learn Webinars
- Entire listing and registrations links can also be found here: http://www.specialolympicspa.org/ways-to-help/volunteer/training-schools#Lunch
- We will continue to offer in 2020
  - 2nd Wednesday of each month at 12:00pm
- There will not be a December 2019 Lunch and Learn
- Send your agenda topics to Michelle Boone mboone@specialolympicspa.org
Reorganization Updates:

- Find the latest updates on the SOPA website in Volunteer Center, click on Green button
- Region 5 roll out in January 2020
  - Regional, Executive Director interviews are in process
- Transition and Implementation Teams
  - working to develop resources and tools for regions
Registering for Training Schools:

You must register on your Vsys Portal to attend a training school.

- Go to your VSys Portal:
  https://vsys.specialolympicspa.org/
  - “Training Schools, Webinars, and More”
  - Sign-up for a Skills Training Course
    - If you do not sign-up a course could be cancelled due to lack of participation!
Coaches Skill Trainings: WINTER SPORTS

→ Saturday, November 23, 2019 – **Floor Hockey** Skills Training in Meadville (Northwest – Crawford)
  - Time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm  Location: Calvary Baptist Church, 543 Randolph St., Meadville

→ Sunday, November 24, 2019 – **Floor Hockey** Skills Training in Washington, PA (Southwest – Washington County)
  - Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm  Location: Waynesburg University, 51 West College Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370

→ Saturday, December 7, 2019 – **Floor Hockey** Skills in Bethlehem, PA (Northeast – Region 5)
  - Time: 9:00 am  Location: Hanover township Community Centre, 3660 Jacksonville Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18017

→ December 14, **Floor Hockey & Snowshoeing** Skills in Centre Valley (Southeast, Lehigh County)
  - Time: 10:00 am  Location DeSales University

Coming Soon - Alpine Skiing - Allegheny Area & Region 5 - Blue Mountain Snowshoeing/Floor Hockey - Area M Area
Coaches Skill Trainings:
SUMMER SPORTS

- Saturday, November 16, 2019 – Equestrian Skills Training in Perkasie (Bucks County-Southeast)
  - Time 9:00 am  Location: Ivy Hill Equestrian

- Sunday, November 17, 2019 - Gymnastics Skills Training in Carlisle (South Central – Area M)
  - Time: 3:00 pm  Location: Cumberland Gymnastics

- Monday, November 18, 2019 - Basketball Skills Training in Northampton (North East)
  - Time: 3:00 – 6:00 pm  Location: Charles Chrin Community Center of Palmer Township

- Sunday, December 8, Bowling Skills in Beaver Falls (Southwest- Beaver County)
  - Time: 1 pm  Location Simms Bowling Lanes, Beaver

- Tuesday, December 10, 2019 - Rhythmic Gymnastics Skill Training in Allentown (Northeast – Lehigh)
  - Time: 6:30 pm  Location: Bethany United Methodist Church
Non-Sport Specific Coaches Trainings:

Saturday, November 23, 2019 - Principles of Coaching in Warren (Northwest- Warren County)

- Time: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Location: Warren County YMCA, 212 Lexington Ave, Warren, PA 16365
- Note: This course is open to all coaches; it is a continuing education course and is a requirement for Silver Coach Status.
Go to your VSys Portal: https://vsys.specialolympicspa.org/

- Type in your email address and password
- Forgot your password? Type in your email then click on Forgot Password
  - A new one will be in your inbox in moments.
  - Once in your portal click on “Training Schools, Webinars, and More”
  - Here are the items you will find:
    - Sport Skills Training Interests (Level 1)
    - Sign-up for a Skills Training Course
    - Experienced Coach (Track 2)
Summer Skills Training School - REQUESTS

SUMMER SPORTS - Due Date: November 29th

- Associated Sports: Athletics, Swimming, Basketball, Golf, Softball, Gymnastics, Equestrian, Tennis
- Trainings Offered: January - March
- Let us know what training you need:
  - Go to your VSys Portal:
    - https://vsys.specialolympicspa.org/
      - “Training Schools, Webinars, and More”
      - Sport Skills Training Interests (Level 1)
      - You can enter sports for any season but if you want a summer sport - it must be there by November 29th!
Fall Training Numbers – Due: November 29th

Please submit to: Sportstraining@specialolympicspa.org

- Remember Page 1 is Traditional and Page 2 is Unified.
- Your program name must be recorded at the top of both pages.
- Place an “x” in the box below your program name if you are not training in Fall Sports (Page 1) or Unified Sports (Page 2).
REMINDER:

- **Golf and tennis** will be qualifiers from Sectional to Summer Games beginning in 2020
Field Department Updates:

BUDGET:
● Make sure you are building transportation/overnights into your budgets for 2020
● Budgets due 11/15 - Microix

COACH MEETINGS:
● Medicals uploaded and coaches have current copies
● Review rule updates
● Certified coaches needed
● 1:1 Expectations: Background checks
● Competition dates - coach and athlete commitment
● Team numbers...what if not enough players?
  ○ Merge counties
  ○ Unified

WINTER WEATHER:
● Explore transportation options (penalties for cancellation - timeframe)
National Bowling Invitational

March 17 – 19, 2020
SONA National Unified Bowling Tournament | Reno, NV

● All expenses must be covered by local program - travel, hotel, meals, etc.
● Important dates include:
  ■ December 16 – Quota Requests forms due
  ■ December 20 – Final allocations will be reported back to teams
  ■ February TBA – Entries will be due

Memo and quota request paperwork will be sent in follow-up email.
Local Program Invitational

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<td>Floor Hockey Invitational</td>
<td>January 5</td>
<td>Bedford Middle School</td>
<td>Bob Imler</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rji5012@gmail.com">rji5012@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bedford</td>
<td>Snowshoe Invitational</td>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>7 Springs Resort</td>
<td>Tom Mereen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:snows@specialolympicspa.org">snows@specialolympicspa.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Area M</td>
<td>Floor Hockey Invitational</td>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>The Susquenita Schools, Duncannon, PA</td>
<td>Shannon Pechart</td>
<td><a href="mailto:areasports@specialolympicspa.org">areasports@specialolympicspa.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>Ski &amp; Snowboard Invitational</td>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Blue Mountain Resort</td>
<td>Tim Johnson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tmiohson@icelectric.com">tmiohson@icelectric.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Basketball &amp; Swimming</td>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Washington &amp; Jefferson University</td>
<td>Jody Knight</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jiknight451@comcast.net">jiknight451@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please send your respective Competition Director (Mike, Teresa, Bruce) results from all Invitationals - it is helpful for us to have that information for divisioning at Sectionals and State Games.
Local Program Invitationals:

Are you hosting an invitational this winter or spring?

Please let Mike Ermer know so we can get word out

mermer@specialolympicspa.org
Questions?