

# Local Program Competition Call

Summer 2019

***Special Olympics***  
*Pennsylvania*



# Agenda



- Welcome
- Summer Games Follow Up
- Sport Advisory Committee
- Qualifiers
- Leadership
- Competition Updates
  - New for 2019
  - Rule Updates
  - Sectionals
  - Fall Fest
- Reorg
- Training
- Field Updates/Reminders
- Invitationals

# Summer Games Follow Up



- **Thank You**
- **Lost & Found [2019 Summer Games Lost & Found](#)**
- **ITN Assessment Clinic**
  - Mary Moore - SODE (World Games Coach)
  - More training to come
  - Phased in implementation
- **Google Registration**
  - Successful Statewide Rollout
  - Great Feedback - good recommendations to improve
  - This is how we will complete paperwork moving forward
    - Traditional forms online to collect data
    - Registration will be utilizing that data to submit entry info

# Sport Advisory Committee



## Objective:

Utilize this committee to brainstorm, discuss and gather feedback that is representative of our key stakeholders with regard to competition with the goal of making a recommendation to our sport management teams or program committee for SOPA based on the feedback we collect.

## Committee Roster:

- Coaches, SOPA staff, Athletes
- Statewide Representation

## Items on Agenda

- Qualifiers - Recommendation Made
- Age Appropriate Teams
- Flag Football
- Qualifiers beyond 2020

# Qualifiers



## Why would we consider making sports qualifiers?

- Improve competition...increase # of athletes/teams attending sectionals, resulting in better competition and more competition opportunities
- Creates a means to advance teams through competition versus random draw
- Consistent growth in sports has created space and time limitations at events/venues requiring us to manage athlete numbers to provide a positive competition experience



# Key Observations

- Continued growth in sectional participation (LDR/W & Powerlifting)
- Notable difference in counties/athletes participating at sectionals and those requesting to attend Fall Fest/Summer Games
- Inability to honor requests for allocations
- Fall Fest/Summer Games venues at capacity

## SPORT COMPARISONS



# Qualifiers for 2019-2020

## Fall: All Sports

- LDR-W - **NEW**
- Powerlifting - **NEW**
- Bocce
- Soccer: 5v5, 7v7
- Volleyball

## Spring:

- Tennis - **NEW**
- Golf - **NEW**
- Basketball: 3v3, 5v5

# 2019 Competition Dates:



- [2019 Competition Calendar: Important Dates](#)
- **Fall Sectionals:**
  - West - Sunday, September 29th
  - Central - Sunday, October 6th
  - East - Sunday, October 13th
- **Fall Festival - Villanova University: November 1-3**
- [2020 Competition Dates](#)
  - Bowling Dates: Proposed LOI Update to accommodate holidays
  - Fall Fest: Moved forward 1 week to allow all sectionals to be done.



# Fall Competition Updates:



- **Personal Best Tracking:** Goal to focus on goal setting, improving times and performance awareness
  - Leadership Conference
  - Advisory Group
  - Data collection on registration paperwork
  - Education: Developing resources to help train and track this information
- **Competition Forms:**
  - Google Registration
  - Feedback from Summer Games
  - Deadline dates adjusted - see event calendar
  - Paper forms will be posted online for coaches to collect data

# Event Recommendations: Fall Events



## You spoke, we listened....

- **Better Bocce Volunteer Training/Officiating**
  - Recruitment of knowledgeable individuals from community
  - Long-term volunteers who will return annually
- **Volunteer Engagement**
  - Job Descriptions to better prepare volunteers
- **Awards**
  - Make consistent event to event
  - More use of LETR and notable community members
  - Use better trained “Awards Teams”
- **Opening Ceremonies**
  - Creating Athlete and Volunteer Ad Hoc Committees
  - Look at current criteria and itineraries
  - Gather recommendations and suggestions to “freshen” it up

# 2019 Allocations



- Bocce allocations are posted on each of the Fall Sectional pages on the website
- Fall Fest Allocations are posted (skills and roller skating)

# USA/World Games updates



- **2021 World Games, Sweden**
  - SOPA Winter Games 2019 was the qualifier
  - PA will request slots in August and be awarded in September
  - We will select names via Facebook live drawing at a TBD date in late September/October
  - Applications for Sport Management Teams (coach/manager) will open in next few weeks.
  - Training Camp anticipated February 2020
- **2022 USA Games, Orlando**
  - Qualifiers - Fall Fest 2020, IWG/SG 2021



# 2019 Leadership Sessions

## Personal Best and Goal Setting

This session is a panel discussion on goal setting for athletes to improve their performance throughout a competition season. Local program coaches and athletes will discuss how they institute goal setting, track improvements, and manage disappointments throughout their preparations for events. Coaches and athletes will share how they utilize goal setting and how it lends itself to help drive conversations about personal best and improving athlete health.

## Competition Department Updates and Q&A

This will be an interactive session. We will introduce our newly formed Sport Advisory Group and share the topics they will be working on. We will review the 2019-2020 competition calendar and provide competition updates. We will utilize the rest of the session to discuss YOUR “hot topics”. If there is extra time we will have round table discussions to introduce new ideas, collect your feedback and allow you to share best practices.

**Registration Deadline: July 15**

# Strategic Plan Reminders



- By the end of 2020:
  - TEAMS:
    - must have at least one (1) certified coach per team
  - INDIVIDUAL/SKILLS: there will be at least one (1) certified coach per 25 athletes for skills and individual sports.
    - MUST have certified coach in skills for State events starting in Jan 2021

# 2019 Rule Updates:

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# Bocce Rule Updates for 2019



## Bocce Sports Management Team met and decided:

- **Implementation of Coaching Box:** In an effort to mitigate coach communication with athletes during competition (which is against the rules) we are implementing a Coaching Box.
  - Still working to determine exact location per event (may need to slightly differ due to facility set-up)
  - No coaching from the coaching box
  - What can coaches say?
    - CAN give encouragement:
      - Good Job, nice roll, etc.
    - CANNOT give tips/coach:
      - Roll slower, long court/short court play, roll against the wall , ask for a measurement, etc.
- **How will we enforce?**
  - 1st infraction: Warning
  - 2nd infraction: Unsportsmanlike - Misconduct to coach
  - 3rd infraction: Removal of Coach from remainder of event



# Bocce Rule as it applies to Coach Communication



## Rules:

### SOI:

#### 4.9 Coaching

##### 4.9.1

Discussion with any athlete and/or partner by a coach or spectator is prohibited once the athlete and or partner steps onto the field of play area as designated by the Tournament Director/Event Manager.

##### 4.9.2

If an official determines that a coach/ partner/ spectator is violating this rule, the official may sanction the offending individual. Sanctions may include: verbal warning, citing the coach/partner with unsportsmanlike conduct or expulsion from the game.



# Bocce Rules - continued

- **Measurements:** Athlete request only
  - A player may request a mechanical measurement (Measurements will be taken from the center side of the bocce ball to the center side of the pallina).
  - At the end of a frame, the referee announces the winning points and color to the **players** outside the court at the pallina end and before the balls are removed, the referee should look to the **players** for agreement.
  - The players have a right to request a measurement if the players disagree with the referee.
- **Playing From One Side:** We will officially change our policy to play from one side of the court, this was successfully piloted in 2018.
- **Allocations:** Based on expressed interest to advance **and** percentage of training in section of state
- **Unified Divisioning:** Goal is division on ability
  - Sectionals may be mixed
  - Fall Fest - our goal will be to division separately

# LDR-W



As with Track and Field, athletes must choose one means to transverse the course - Running OR Walking - they cannot compete in both.

# Powerlifting



- Arrive at venue ready to weigh-ins:
  - In uniform - singlets and undergarments
- Equipment requirements:
  - 4" belt - with NO padding
  - High socks for deadlift
- Working on Webinar: FAQ for Powerlifting

# Soccer



## Some verbiage changes to the kick off

- All players must be in the defensive half of the field for the kick off
- Goal can be scored from the kick off
- An “own goal” on the kick off by team A would not result in a point for team B, but a corner kick for team B

## Ejections

- Team with an ejected player must now play shorthanded for 2 minutes
  - Goals against used to allow the shorthanded team to even the roster

## Goalkeeping

- Clarifications that the goalkeeper cannot pick up the ball when it is played back to them from their own team

# Volleyball



## Prelim games

- Important to see top athletes
- Coaches will identify top 3 prior to the games - top 3 will play entire game
- Top 6 play first 4 minutes
- Sub additional players remaining 4 minutes

We have adapted similar changes for basketball with success.

# General Rules:



Links to all the sport pages can be found here:

[SOI Sports and Coaching](#)

**Fall Sport Rules:**

[Athletics - LDR/W](#)

[Bocce](#)

[Football \(Soccer\)](#)

[Powerlifting](#)

[Rollerskating](#)

[Volleyball](#)

# Fall Sectionals

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# WFS: September 29



- Slippery Rock University
- Important Dates:
  - Reg Info: Will be sent by August 2nd
  - LOI: Due August 29th
  - Online Vsys Roster: Due September 2nd
  - Reg: Due September 12th
  - Scratch/Activation: Due September 23rd



# CFS: October 6th



- Juniata College
- Important Dates:
  - Reg Info: Will be sent by August 9th
  - LOI: Due September 5th
  - Online Vsys Roster: Due September 9th
  - Reg: Due September 19th
  - Scratch/Activation: Due September 30th



# EFS: October 13



- DeSales University
- Important Dates:

- Reg Info: Will be sent by August 16th
- LOI: September 12th
- Online Vsys Roster: Due September 16th
- Reg: Due September 26th
- Scratch/Activation: Due October 7th
- Powerlifting:
  - Timing: VERY tight timeline
    - Two Platforms
    - No OC - Report to Competition Venue
    - Weigh In Ready - Multiple scales
    - Awards as complete



# State Games

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# Fall Festival

## November 1 - 3



- Villanova University
- Pre-Event Webinar: Thursday, October 24th at 7 pm
- Important Dates:
  - Reg Info Goes Out: September 6th
  - LOI Due - September 26 (Arrival, Transportation Meals)
  - Reg Due (Rollerskating & Housing):
    - VERY TIGHT TURN AROUND:
      - October 10 - CFS, WFS, Eastern Rollerskating
      - October 15 - EFS Housing
  - Scratch/Activation deadline - October 24th (Thursday)

# Fall Festival: Schedule Updates



- **LDR/W: Competition on Friday**
  - Tentatively: 1500 R/W
  - 1500 R/W Awards
- **Powerlifting: Competition on Friday**
  - No Saturday weigh ins
  - Boxed lunches
- **All programs should plan to have all Powerlifting and LDR/W athletes/coaches onsite with the rest of the delegation**

# Other Updates

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# Reorganization Updates:

- Keep up to date - SOPA website in Volunteer Center
- Announcement and roll out of pilot region
  - **Region 5 - Monroe, Northampton, Bethlehem, Lehigh, Carbon, Schuylkill, Berks**
- Implementation and Transition Teams



Monthly Updates	Sports Offered
Reorganization Updates	Protective Behaviors, General Orientation & Concussion Training
Vsys Tips & Info	Request A Skills Training School
Resources	Coaches Training & Continuing Ed.
Current Volunteer Background Checks	Continuing Ed. Course Options
New Volunteer Registration	Leadership Conference



# Webinar Series:



- Lunch & Learn - will be RECORDED and posted to SOPA website, on toolbar - Volunteer Resources, Trainings
- Entire listing and registrations links can also be found here:  
<https://specialolympicspa.org/lunch-learn-webinar-series>

## July 10

Team Assessments - Importance of and How To: Soccer and Volleyball

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/5a146d75b1ddf36334538d7d4481ef37>

## July 17 (reschedule from May)

Goal setting and Personal best - setting, tracking, recognition

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/6f2e11b3263ea98dcde7dc3c8da9331e>

## August 14

Athlete Fitness/Fitness Coordinators

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/279b7d85a2bb3959dc2040ba88984b7b>

## September 11

SOPA Resources 101

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/78dbf205ccc48d6cc5b9141539e44ee6>

**LOOKING FOR TOPICS FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER....What would be helpful for you?**

# Silver Level Coaching Trainings



## Principles of Coaching

### **Wednesday, July 17, 2019 (South Central - Area M) (Silver Level Course)**

- Location: CAIU, 55 Miller Street Enola, PA 17025 (Friendship Room)
- Time: 6pm-9pm

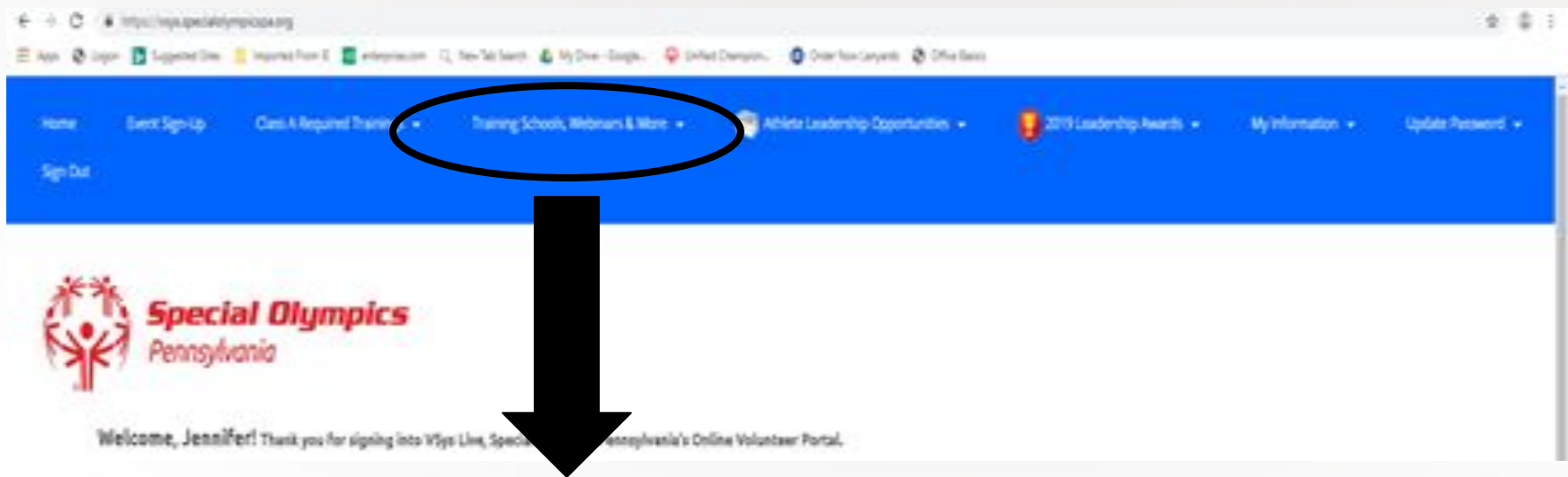
### **Saturday, August 17, 2019 (North Central - Centre) (Silver Level Course)**

- Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Location: Penn Stater Conference Center and Hotel, 215 Innovation Blvd, State College, PA 16803
- This course will be the same weekend as Leadership but you DO NOT have to go to Leadership to attend this course.
- Sign up on your VSys personal portal.

# VSys Portal - “Training Schools, Webinars and More”



<https://vsys.specialolympicspa.org/>



- **Sport Skills Sign-Up**
- **Sport Skill Training Interest (Level 1)**
- **Special Olympics PA - Track 2 - Experienced Coach**



# VSys Portal - My Information Tab

1. **My Calendar** - Once you register for a Training School, it will be removed from your Training School options and now appear on your calendar.  
  
\* If you want to make sure your registration went through - Check out your calendar!
2. **Completed Trainings** - This tab lists all your trainings, expirations dates.

# Field Department Updates:



## Summer Checklist

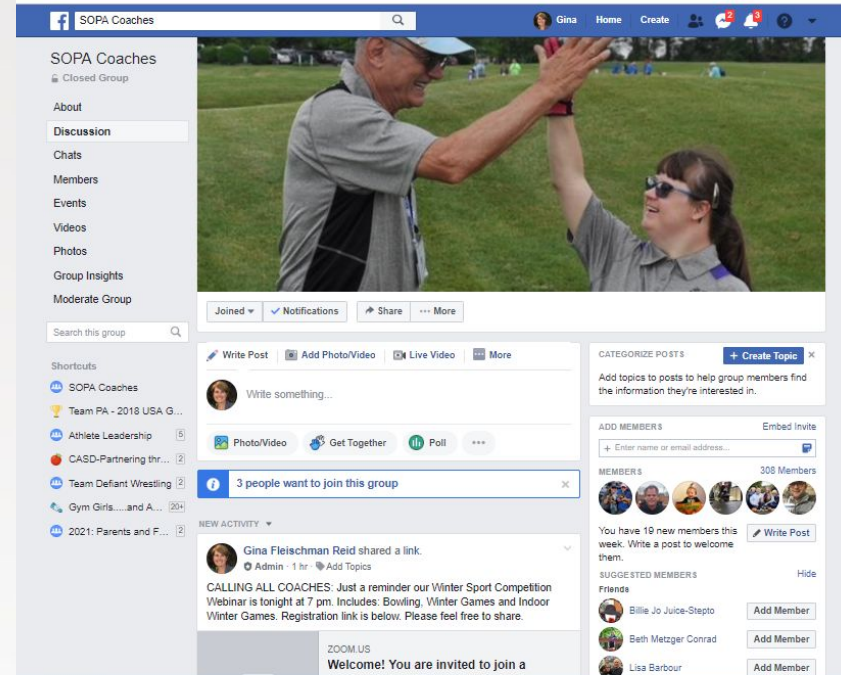
- Training numbers are due Friday
- Uniform/equipment inventory
- Coaches Meetings
  - Training/Competition schedule
  - Certified Coaches list
  - Background checks & online trainings
- Medical uploads
- Reminder: Fitness Coordinators & Athlete Leadership Engagement
- Local competitions/scrimmages

# Improving Communication:



## Closed Facebook Group for Coaches:

- 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](#)



➔ Which SOPA local program to you coach for?

➔ What sport/sports do you coach?

# Local Program Invitationals



Program	Event	Date	Notes	Contact Name	Email
Area M	Fall Classic	September 15	Bocce, LDR/W, Powerlifting, Soccer, Volleyball Hershey High School and Italian Lodge.	Shannon Pechart	<a href="mailto:areamsports@specialolympicspa.org">areamsports@specialolympicspa.org</a>
Montgomery	MontCo Weight Lifting Tournament	September 28	Powerlifting - Spring Valley YMCA	Scott Otterbein	<a href="mailto:specialolympicsmontco@verizon.net">specialolympicsmontco@verizon.net</a>
Allegheny	Fall Invitational	October 6	Bocce, LDR/W, Soccer.	Shannon Clancy	<a href="mailto:sclancy@specialolympicspa.org">sclancy@specialolympicspa.org</a>
Monroe	Fall Invitational	October 6	Flag Football, Soccer, Volleyball	Taraz Crowley	<a href="mailto:tmbc_14@yahoo.com">tmbc_14@yahoo.com</a>
Columbia/Montour	Bocce Bash	October 20	Bocce - Bloomsburg University	Deb Andrews	<a href="mailto:dandr38023@aol.com">dandr38023@aol.com</a>
Philadelphia	Volleyball Tournament	Late October	Volleyball	Michelle Cordell	<a href="mailto:mcordell@specialolympicspa.org">mcordell@specialolympicspa.org</a>
Montgomery	MontCo LDR/W Invitational	October 20	LDR/W - Heebner Park	Scott Otterbein	<a href="mailto:specialolympicsmontco@verizon.net">specialolympicsmontco@verizon.net</a>
Montgomery	MontCo Bowling Tournament	December 1	Bowling - Facenda-Whitaker Lanes	Scott Otterbein	<a href="mailto:specialolympicsmontco@verizon.net">specialolympicsmontco@verizon.net</a>

Are you hosting an invitational this fall?

Please let Mike Ermer know so we can get word out

[mermer@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:mermer@specialolympicspa.org)



**Questions?**