2019 Leadership: Competition Q&A
Welcome - Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview
  - Sport Advisory Group
  - 2019-2020 Competition Calendars
  - Google Registration Follow-up
  - New:
    - Qualifiers
    - Rule Updates
  - Importance of Building Age Appropriate Teams
  - Hot Topics for Discussion
Your Competition Team

- **Michelle Boone: Sr. Sports Director**
  - Oversight of statewide Competition, Coach Education, Unified Sports and Unified Champion Schools

- **Mike Ermer: Western Competition Director**
  - Invitationals, GMS Support

- **Teresa Amaturo: Central Competition Director**
  - SO College

- **Jen Tresp: Training & Unified Sports Director**
  - Coach Training, Unified Sports

- **TBD: Senior Competition Director, Eastern events**
Sport Advisory Group

- **Who makes up the Advisory Group**
  - Coaches, SOPA Staff, Athletes
  - Statewide Representation

- **Purpose**
  - Brainstorm, discuss, and gather feedback with regard to competition
  - Make recommendations to Sport Management Teams and Program Committees

- **Items of Agenda**
  - Qualifiers
  - Age Appropriate Teams
  - Flag Football rollout, sponsored sport
  - 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
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
Opening Ceremonies is one of the highlights of every Special Olympics event; it sets the tone for the entire day.

What is the goal of this committee?

- Brainstorm ideas
- Identify ways to make OC more athlete centered
- Identify ways to make OC more entertaining/exciting

We want to hear from YOU!

- What do your athletes look forward to?
- What gets them excited for competition?
- We will discuss further in our Roundtable!
Competition Calendars

● Review calendar
  ○ 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: LOI Update to accommodate holidays
  ○ Fall Fest: Moved forward 1 week to allow all sectionals to be done.
Google Registration

- Successful Statewide Rollout
- Great feedback/recommendations
- Moving forward, event registration will be accepted only in google format
  - Traditional forms are available on the SOPA website and can be used to collect data
- Importance of current and accurate roster information
- Impact of deadlines on the registration process
- FAQ’s: Google Registration FAQ's
Building Age Appropriate Teams

- SOI Sport Rules, Article 1 – Team sports should fall into the following age groups:
  - 8-15, 16-21, 22+

- **WHY?**
  - Safety, opportunity for participation, quality competition, meaningful involvement and social inclusion.

- **Alignment with mainstream sport**
  - In no other sport organization do you see kids or teenagers competing on the same field with adults.

- **Enforcement**
  - Sport Advisory Committee working to develop rollout plan
As coaches, we are each other’s own best resources!

What is the goal of this committee?

- Pool resources to track athlete performance throughout a season
- Determine best practices to help athletes set SMART goals
- Improve all athlete performances on and off the field!

We want to hear from YOU!

- Do you use any systems to track performance over a competition season?
- What challenges do you have with goal setting?
- Do you track athlete performance to update Personal Best performances?
Hot Topics
Allocations

- **Initial allocations will be given based on training numbers received**
  - Each county’s training numbers are calculated into a percentage of the total athletes in a sport across the state or section
  - That percentage is then applied to the number of athletes a venue can manage to determine the initial allocation
  - No county can get more than 20% of the INITIAL allocations by sport
  - If training numbers are not received, no initial allocations will be given
  - If you do not receive initial allocations, you can request them in the LOI - and we will do our best to award them
Allocations (cont.)

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Preparation for Final Allocations

Allocation Example
Team Assessment

- Copies of the Team Individual Assessment forms - 1 per athlete
- Athletes should be scored during a **game-like** situation (invitational, scrimmage)
- **One** coach assess all athletes
- **Consistent, Consistent, Consistent**
- No athlete should have all 8’s
- Do not be generous! Scores of 2, 3 and 4 are appropriate
- [Team Assessments: Volleyball and Soccer](https://zoom.us/recording/share/saH2SemudLzGhWygWyV0qZz5shXJN95-GPwz2lOMXUmwIumekTziMw?startTime=1565277440000)
Consistency Across Competitions

Why is consistency important?
-Athletes know what to expect event to event
-Everyone is following the same guidelines and expectations

Competition (example)
-Long jump - there continues to be inconsistency in how long jump calculated

Awards ceremonies:
-We are working to create one process for Awards
-Help us make the experience memorable for your athletes!
  -What is important to athletes?
    ■Whole divisions get awarded together?
    ■Entire team rosters being read as medals awarded?
  -What can we do to upgrade our current awards ceremonies?
    ■Flowers?
    ■Music?
Reorg and Competition

Goal: More competition opportunities for more athletes

How do we do that?
- Local
- Regional
- Sectional
- State

Advancement:
- The importance of qualifiers
- Accurate training numbers
- Quality registration data

What do YOU think?
Questions?
Let’s Talk About It!
Roundtable Discussions

- Opening Ceremonies
- Consistency across Programs and Events
- Reorg and Competition
ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH!
Thank you.