



2019 Leadership: Competition Q&A

Special Olympics
Pennsylvania



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 Amaturio: 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



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



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!



- 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

Personal Best and Athlete Goal setting Committee



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

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- **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.)



	Training	Athletes who Trained AND Competed-MALE				Athletes who Trained AND Competed-FEMALE			
		8-15	16-21	22+	Total	8-15	16-21	22+	Total
Adams		0	1	9	10	0	0	3	3
Allegheny		7	8	20	35	9	6	20	35
Area M		2	6	37	45	0	7	20	27
Area P		1		15	16	1		16	17
Armstrong/Indiana	N								
Beaver		0	0	2	2	0	0	6	6
Bedford		2		6	8	0	0	8	8
Berks				8	8			5	5
Bethlehem		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blair		1	1	9	11	0	0	19	19
Bradford/Sullivan	N								
Bucks		4	4	12	20		3	12	15
Butler		0	0			0	1		
Cambria	N								
Carbon		3	3	7	13		1	2	3
Centre		0	0	4	4	0	0	5	5
Chester				4	4			2	2
Clearfield			1	14	15		2	12	14
Clarion									
Clinton	N								
Columbia/Montour			2	10	12			11	11
Crawford				1	1			11	11
Delaware		0	0	12	12	0	0	10	10
DuBois/Jefferson	N								
Elk Cameron	N								
Erie City			1	2	3			1	1
Erie County	N								
Fayette									
Franklin			2	2	4		2	2	4
Fulton		2	2		4	1	2	1	4
Greene									
Huntingdon		0	0	2	2	0	0	4	4
Lancaster			12	12			11	11	
Lawrence				24	24			26	26
Lebanon		0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
Lehigh				6	6			12	12
Lycoming		0	1	6	7	0	0	1	1
Luzerne									
McKean	N								

2018 EFS Initial Bocce Allocations

Program	Bocce - Traditional Doubles (2 = a doubles team of 2 athletes)	Bocce - Unmixed Doubles (2 = a doubles team of 1 athlete and 1 partner)	Total Athletes
Area P	10	6	16
Berks	4	0	4
Bethlehem		0	0
Bucks	10	6	16
Carbon	4	0	4
Chester	2	0	2
Columbia - Montour	6	4	10
Delaware	6	0	6
Lancaster	6	0	6
Lebanon	2	0	2
Lehigh	6	0	6
Luzerne		0	0
Monroe		0	0
Montgomery	16	0	16
Northampton	6	0	6
Northumberland - Snyder		2	2
Philadelphia	18	6	24
Schuylkill	2	0	2
Union	2	2	4
Total	100	26	126



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](#)



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:

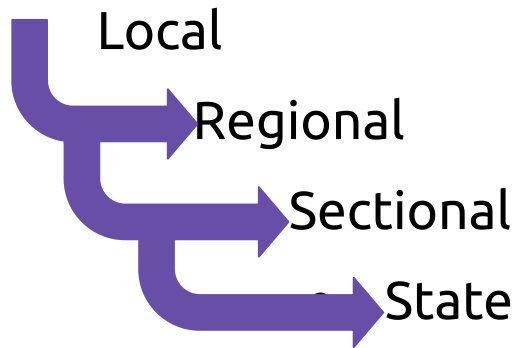
- We are working to create one process for Awards
- Help us make the experience memorable for your athletes!
 - What is important to athletes?
 - Whole divisions get awarded together?
 - Entire team rosters being read as medals awarded?
 - What can we do to upgrade our current awards ceremonies?
 - Flowers?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

Reorg and Competition



Goal: More competition opportunities for more athletes

How do we do that?



Advancement:

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

What do YOU think?



WORK IN PROGRESS





Questions?

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Let's Talk About It!

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- **Opening Ceremonies**
- **Consistency across Programs and Events**
- **Reorg and Competition**

**ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;
TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH!**





Thank you.

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