

SPECIAL OLYMPICS WISCONSIN

2014-2015 COMPETITION GUIDE

KEY CHANGES AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Please note that this is only a synopsis and **does not reflect all of the Competition Guide changes** for the 2014-2015 Program year. Coaches should review the rules annually in order to become familiar with any changes that have been made.

1. Unified Partner Registration. The Unified Partner Form is no longer required for persons who wish to act as a Unified Partner for SOWI events. Instead, in order to be eligible to participate as a partner, a person must complete the Class A registration and screening process (Complete the Class A form and Protective Behaviors training) by the medical deadline for the season in which they wish to compete. For example, if a person wishes to be a Unified Partner for golf, he or she must complete the Class A registration process (for new partners), by June 1 of that year, or must be a current Class A volunteer (for existing volunteers).
2. Athletics. Due to low numbers of participation and the lack of enough people to offer quality competition, the Pentathlon and High Jump will no longer be offered as SOWI Athletics events.
3. Golf. Due to low numbers of participation and the lack of enough people to offer quality competition, Level 3-Unified Team Play and Level 5-18 Hole Individual Stroke play will no longer be offered as SOWI golf events. The information on Level 1 (training only) has been moved to the appendix of the Competition Guide.
4. Softball Clarification. Helmets in softball are not required for pitchers or infielders, however, there is no rule preventing players in the field from wearing helmets if they so choose.
5. Basketball Skills Level 2. The Low Post Turn and Shoot is no longer included as a Level 2 skill. The third event of Level 2 is now the Catch and Pass. Please refer to the 2014-2015 Basketball Skills Rules in Section A for a description of this new skill
6. Uniforms. For the purposes of consistency, and to make things easier to manage for local programs, all team uniforms will allow the use of a 4 inch number on the front and a 6 inch number on the back. This will allow a local program to use the same uniform tops for all SOWI team events. Please note that while the new number size will now be allowed, the legal number sizes listed in past rules will also be allowed (for example in volleyball a 6 inch front number and an 8 inch back number will still also be legal in SOWI play).
7. Uniform Reference. A Uniform quick reference guide has been provided in the appendix that contains a list of uniform requirements for each SOWI sport. The reference list also includes a list of numbers that are legal for all SOWI sports.
8. Winter Games. The hotel site for the Winter Games has changed. The 2015 event will use the Plaza Hotel in Wausau as the main hotel site.

9. Winter Games Housing. Due to the way the hotel contract had to be structured for Winter Games, those Agencies who wish to pay for rooms using Agency funds on the SOWI direct bill will need to sign up for the number of rooms that they wish to reserve on the State Winter Games Registration form. Agencies will no longer need to reserve rooms directly with the hotel. No rooms will be added to the SOWI direct bill for Agency funds unless the Winter Games registration form is used. Family members and others outside of the delegations must call the hotel to make their own reservations.
10. Family and Friends Housing. In the past, SOWI reserved room blocks for family members attending State Games. We have found that many times, these blocks are not used or rooms are booked and cancelled close to the event. This has made it difficult to book blocks of rooms as hotels lose money on cancellations. With these reasons, coupled with the fact that hotel deals are much more easily found on travel websites, SOWI has not made any hotel blocks for the 2014-2015 sports year.
11. State Registration Forms. A line has been added allowing SOWI to transfer funds from Agency accounts for all expenses incurred at events (for things like lost keys, etc). Transfers for incidental charges will no longer be invoiced.
12. Non-required Skill Assessment Tests. Skills Assessment Tests are not required for registration for all SOWI sports. (They are still required for volleyball and bocce.) The non-required Skills Assessment Tests have been moved to the Appendix section of the Competition Guide.
13. Proposed Rule Changes. This is a reminder that a form has been developed for submission of rule change proposals. The form is available in the Agency Manager Handbook in the Forms for Duplication section. All rule change proposals are due to the Headquarters office by May 1st annually for consideration for the following program year.
14. Practicum Hours. It is no longer required to report the 10 hours of practical coaching experience when a Class A volunteer applies to be a certified coach. Coaches who wish to become certified in a sport must attend a Certified Training School, and submit a completed *Application for Sports Certification Form* to the Director of Training & Competition. The *Application for Sports Certification Form* and *Application for Sports Re-Certification Form* have both been revised.
15. Principles of Coaching. It is no longer required that one coach per sport offered by the Agency has completed the Principles of Coaching training by December 31, 2015. Rather, various aspects of this training have been incorporated into other coaches training sessions. This course is still a valuable aspect of training and will still be taught for those wishing to deepen their coaching skills.
16. New Online Training Opportunities. Please see our website for new online opportunities for coach re-certification: <http://www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/coach/#ReCert>

DISPOSE OF (RECYCLE OR THROW AWAY) ALL OLD FORMS AND OLD COMPETITION GUIDE INFORMATION.

PLEASE USE ONLY 2014 - 2015 SOWI COMPETITION GUIDE FORMS