



**MEMO**

**From:** Special Olympics WI  
**Date:** February 5, 2019  
**Re:** Recreational Swimming Policy and Waiver for Athletes not traveling with official delegation

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Special Olympics Wisconsin (SOWI) has created a new Policy on Recreational Swimming, as well as a Release & Waiver for athletes not traveling/staying with their official delegation. This policy and waiver is the result of mandatory compliance to Special Olympics Inc., as well as for the health and safety of all Special Olympics Athletes & Partners.

**KEY ELEMENTS**

- The Recreational Swimming Policy is not guidance, but official Special Olympics WI Policy. Potential repercussions of policy violation could include but are not limited to: disqualification from competition; being sent home from training, competition, or activity at their or their legal guardian's expense; temporary suspension; permanent suspension.
- Parent/Guardians of Athletes not traveling /staying with their official delegation may elect to complete the Waiver for Athletes not traveling with official Delegation.
  - This release will pertain to State Games travel or other overnight travel. This is because there is rarely overnight housing required for Regional/District Games; and because it is common for parents or care givers to provide for their child/guard's transportation to and from Regional/District level Games.
  - This release and waiver is to be filled out on a per-event basis and may not apply to multiple events throughout the year(s).
  - It is at the sole discretion of the Local Program as to whether or not they wish to allow the use of this release and waiver. Local Programs may choose to adopt a position that athletes must travel and stay with the official delegation, or they cannot participate.
  - All release and waiver forms must be completely filled out and should be kept on file by the county program for 7 years (in the event of subsequent legal action or suit).
- Recreational Swimming may be allowed at State Tournaments host hotels and pre-authorized Local Program events if Basic Rules, Emergency Action Plans and Supervisory Personnel Requirements are met.

Any questions regarding this policy and waiver document can be directed to Don Wigington, VP of Sports and Health Programs, Special Olympics WI or Mark Wolfgram, SR. Director of Field Services, Special Olympics WI.