

# Special Ol

2025 SOWI Fall M

***Special  
Olympics***  
*Wisconsin*



**WELCOME**  
*...with gratitude*

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Olympics***  
*Wisconsin*



# Our Mission

## *Setting the Tone...*

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. This gives them continuing opportunities to **develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship** with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.



# Video Message

Eunice Kennedy Shriver



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# The Day's Goals

- Listen
- Learn
- Lead

# Video Message

Tim Shriver



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**"Let me win,  
but if I cannot win,  
let me be brave  
in the attempt."**

– Athlete Oath

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# Special Ol

Leadership Grant  
September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2

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# Who are we?

- Lexi Galarowicz: Unified Leadership Specialist
  - Athlete and Special Olympics Wisconsin employee
  - [Mgalarowicz@specialolympicswisconsin.org](mailto:Mgalarowicz@specialolympicswisconsin.org)
- Deb Moore-Gruenloh: Athlete Leadership Coordinator
  - Long time Volunteer and Coach

Athlete

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# What is Athlete Leadership?

- Athlete Leadership is a program offered to Special Olympics athletes to help them gain more leadership skills at the personal, local, and statewide level.
- We currently offer 12+ classes a year for new and returning athlete leaders.

# How do I become an Athlete Leader?

- To become an Athlete Leader, here are the steps to take:
  - Contact Special Olympics Wisconsin Athlete Leadership
  - Take an Athlete Leadership Course that interests you.
  - Help out with different events locally or statewide.

# Classes

Remaining for 2025:

- Heath Messenger: Virtually, Wed Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6pm-8pm
- Athletes as Coaches: In Madison, Sat November 8<sup>th</sup>
- Introduction to Athlete Leadership and Understanding Leadership: Virtually, Tues/Thurs December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm
  - *The 2026 Class Schedule handout is in your folder with more information.*



# Grant P

Leadership Grant

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# What is the Grant?

- We were awarded this leadership grant through Special Olympics North America (SONA). We were one of seven states to receive this funding and dispersed mini grants to 10 athlete leaders around the state.
- States that received this grant: WI, OH, MD, SC, KS, UT, ID

# Purpose of the Grant

- The purpose of this grant was to bring more athlete leadership representation to the local program level. Each grantee was able to come up with a project important to them to implement locally. This also gave them a chance to show their community what athlete leaders can do.

# Project Breakdown

- Recruitment- 3
- Health-2
- Athlete Leadership- 2
- Marketing-1
- Unified Champion Schools- 2

# Recruitment

- 2-12: Neillsville
- 2-44: Wisconsin Rapids
- 3-25: Menomonie Red Cedar



# **Increasing our Athlete and Volunteer Membership**

- Who: Kolin Schmitz and Jene and Denny Miller
- Program: 2-12 Neillsville

**Attended multiple community parades to spread awareness and recruit more local athletes and volunteers.**

# All of us R Together (ART)

- Who: Samuel Swartwout and Birgit Swartwout
- Program: 2-44 Wisconsin Rapids

**Gathered pieces of artwork from students with intellectual disabilities to raise awareness and display at an art fair.**

# Recruiting younger Athletes and LETR Officers

- Who: Danny Cox and Joel Wener
- Program: 3-25 Menomonie Red Cedar

**Spoke with multiple police departments to spread awareness surrounding LETR, also worked with Menomonie School District to recruit younger athletes to join their Local Program.**

*The school then registered as a Unified Champion School!*

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# Health

- 4-04: Dodge County
- 6-36: La Crosse



# **Leadership and Health Grant: Dining with Danielle Healthy Meal Sessions**

- Who: Danielle Miller and Mary Pat Boschert
- Program: 4-04 Dodge County

**Taught about nutrition and healthy habits, while also giving athletes the opportunity to improve their cooking skills.**

# **Wheely Awesome Bike Club**

- Who: Renee Cappetto, Braedan Calvillo and Sophie Nedens
- Program: 6-36 La Crosse Parks and Rec

**Started a Bike Club to encourage local athletes to socialize & have fun while being active and getting outside.**

# Athlete Leadership

- 2-25: Stevens Point
- 4-25: SOAR Fox Cities



# Offering Athlete Leadership Training for those in Central Wisconsin

- Who: Tyler Wigington and Kristy Bridenhagen
- Program: 2-25 Stevens Point YMCA

**Coordinated with Special Olympics Wisconsin to host an  
Introduction to Athlete Leadership & Understanding  
Leadership class in the Steven's Point area for local athletes.**

# SOAR to Leadership

- Who: Christiana Coakley and Ebben Wydeven
- Program: 4-25 SOAR Fox Cities

**Coordinated with Special Olympics Wisconsin to host an Introduction to Athlete Leadership & Understanding Leadership class in the Fox Cities area for local athletes.**

# Marketing

- 8-05: Wauwatosa



# Resource Guide for Wauwatosa

- Who: Kyle Von Drasek and Allie Kaiser
- Program: 8-05 Wauwatosa

**Created a community resource guide to increase awareness surrounding accessible opportunities and resources local to Wauwatosa.**

# Unified Champion Schools (UCS)

- 6-12: West Madison
- 8-31: Hartford



# La Follette Unified

- Who: Trevor Thwing and Zevyn Goossens
- Program: 6-12 West Madison

**Hosted a Whole School Engagement event at a home basketball game for Spread the Word Inclusion Week. Also recruited their school to register as a Unified Champion School.**

# Slinger Unified

- Who: Sara Byrd and Martha Stollberg
- Program: 8-31 Hartford Parks and Rec

**Hosted a banner signing for Spread the Word Inclusion Week and spoke to a Peers-to-Peers class about her experience as a Special Olympics Wisconsin athlete.**

*The banner was signed by over 200 people!*

# What Next?

- We applied for a new grant, we will know if we received it in November.
- Projects may vary, but it will still be athlete leader led.
- If you're interested in participating, please contact Lexi at:  
[mgalarowicz@specialolympicswisconsin.org](mailto:mgalarowicz@specialolympicswisconsin.org)



# Question

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"Let me  
but if I  
let me  
in the a

– Athlete Oath

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# Up and Moving

- Jeston Glish – Health Program Manager



# Local Prog

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# Agenda

- SONA and Local Programs
- Local Program Task Force
- Local Program Structure
- Minimum Standards
- Staff Communication/Support

# SONA

- TBD

# Local Program Task Force

- Members
  - Michelle Fulweber (3-12 Chequamegon Bay)
  - Kristy Bridenhagen (2-25 Stevens Point YMCA)
  - Linda Brothen (8-02 North Suburban)
  - PJ Lynch (8-42 Team Milwaukee)
  - Heather Holland (2-17 Marshfield)
  - Chad Hershner (SOWI)
  - Mark Wolfgram (SOWI)
  - Robin Van Fleet Bergen (SOWI)
  - Jason Blank (SOWI)
  - Amie Dugan (SOI/SONA)
  - Jeremie Ballinger (SOI/SONA)

# LP Task Force Purpose

- Look at Local Program structure and processes to find gaps, changes, or needs
- Agreed upon vision for Local Program Task Force: Creating equitable experience for all Special Olympics Wisconsin athletes
- Main topics:
  - Local Program Structure
  - Consistency in all Local Programs
  - Staff support and communication for Local Programs
- Sustainable, quality programs

# Statewide Structure (Current State)

SOWI has a variety of scenarios in our local program structure

- Size of Programs
- Types of Local Programs
- Structure of Programs
  - Some are lead by one or two people
  - Others have a team and formalized structure
  - Some charge athletes to complete – others don't
- Challenges and opportunities vary by program/region

# Local Program Breakdown

## 125 Local Programs - Type

- Community Based – 74
- School Based – 37
- Park & Rec – 6
- Rehab Facility – 3
- Y Program – 2
- Church – 1
- Camp – 1
- Arc Program – 1

## TOTAL ATHLETES BY REGIONS:

2024: R2: 595		R3: 691		R4: 705		R5: 711		R6: 1070		R7: 977		R8: 1,551
2025: R2: 580		R3: 701		R4: 708		R5: 625		R6: 1273		R7: 902		R8: 1,557

522 Class A Certified Coaches



# Local Program Structure

## Local Program Manager (LPM)

- Plans, organizes, and directs/coordinates Local Program (LP) and LP Management Team
- Ensures quality and risk management standards of LP are upheld
- Coordinates with SOWI on mission, vision, and policies/procedures of SOWI
- Completes annual LP Accreditation

## Sports and Training Coordinator

- Book/reserve practice and competition services
- Recruit Coaches for each sport offered
- Works with SOWI Training and Games Logistics Manager on training opportunities
- Assists with equipment needs
- Coordinates competition travel and lodging
- Complete required forms for Regional, Sectional, and state Games.
- Act as HOD at State Games.

## Athlete Medicals Coordinator

- New athlete welcome & introduction
- Monitor and distribution of medical forms
- Process athlete medicals and serve as Local Program point of contact for SOWI Athlete Medical Manager
- Verify athlete approved for competition season
- Assure coaches have copies of current athlete medicals

## Finance Coordinator

- Process financial transactions from the LO with SOWI Accounts Payable
- Completes Local Program annual budget with LPM
- Ensures all financial policies and reporting is complete according to process outlined by SOWI

## Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

- Welcome new volunteers
- Provide information on Class A requirements, policies, procedures
- Coach & LP Management Team recruitment
- Point of Contact for volunteer needs
- Class A Volunteer Approval review
- Serve as point of contact for SOWI Volunteers Manager, Sr. Director of Field Services, Marketing Communications



# Additional Local Program Positions

## Health and Fitness Manager

- Assist in training with Sports Manager
- Assist with Nutrition
- Interacts with SOWI Healthy Athletes initiative

## Equipment and Uniform Manager

- Assist with general maintenance of equipment
- Tracks need for equipment utilized for training within the LP
- Maintain needs and distribution of LP uniforms
- Works with SOWI Marketing and Communications on proper uniform compliance (logos, etc.)

## Unified Champion School Manager

- Coordinate Unified Sports including liaising with Unified Champion Schools, Park & Rec, and transition plans for 11+ year olds into community programs

# Additional Local Program Positions

## LETR Manager

- Coordinate Law Enforcement Torch Run activities with the LP Mgmt. team including Torch Run, Cops on the Roof Top, awards, local picnic/community interactions
- Works with SOWI LETR team

## Fundraising Manager

Work with community to support the LP on fundraising efforts

- Plan and implement fundraising efforts
- Donor acknowledgement
- Work with SOWI Development and Special Events on state fundraising efforts such as Polar Plunge, LETR Torch Run, Run with the Cops, etc.
- Interact with LP Treasurer on the handling and processing of funds from fundraising efforts

# Additional Local Program Positions

## Marketing/Communications Manager

- Updates webpage and social media
- Verifies compliance to policies of social media guidelines within SOWI
- Assists with community outreach
- Assists with LP appreciation cards, letters for donors and volunteers
- Assist with internal communication via emails, texts, newsletter
- Provide content to SOWI Marketing and Communications regarding LP stories and LP content

# Local Program Minimum Standards

- Minimum of 15 Athletes and Unified Partners
- Maintain a 4:1 ratio of volunteers per athlete with a minimum of 4 Class A Volunteers
- Local Program Management Team consisting of:
  - Local Program Manager/Finance Manager
  - Volunteer and Outreach Manager
  - Athlete Medicals Manager
  - Sports & Training Manager
- Provide training and register to compete at a Regional, District, or State in 3 sports throughout the year in at least 2 sports seasons
- \*Include state attendance\*
- Encourage to participate in Health Programming

# Local Program Minimum Standards

- Local Programs place athletes in positions of leadership at the local level and connect them with SOWI Athlete Leadership programs when appropriate
- Communication Standard: Provide monthly updates to Coaches, Volunteers, Athletes, and Families
- Fill out annual Accreditation
  - Local Program Budget
  - Local Program Succession Plan
- Timeline: In place by January 1, 2028

# Staff Communication

- Athletic Directors are the primary point of contact
- Exceptions:
  - Volunteers – [volunteer@specialolympicswisconsin.org](mailto:volunteer@specialolympicswisconsin.org)
  - Financial – [accountspayable@specialolympicswisconsin.org](mailto:accountspayable@specialolympicswisconsin.org)
  - Severe Suspensions – Sr Director of Field Services
- SOWI Staff Communication Expectations
  - Creation of SOWI Local Program White Pages
  - Respond within 2 business days
    - Utilization of Out of Offices
    - Follow up date if can't answer within 2 business days
  - Reply by add the SOWI contact rather than forwarding the email

# Special Ol

New Athlete Paper

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# Who?

- Special Olympics, WI is required to implement new athlete paperwork created by SOI as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.
- The new athlete paperwork policy affects new athletes and athletes who need to renew their paperwork.
- Current athletes with a valid medical on file do not need to complete the new paperwork until it is time for them to renew.

# What?

- The new athlete paperwork consists of:
  - The Athlete Registration Form ....and that's it! No more Athlete Release, Health History, Physical Exam, or Communicable Disease Waivers.
- SOWI and its affiliated local programs will not be allowed to require a medical form to be completed in order for an athlete to participate in practices, district, regional and State competitions.

# When?

- Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026
- Any previously used forms will not be accepted.
- “Medical” deadlines will still be enforced.
  - The waiver section now includes information on Atlanto-Axial Instability and a Release of Liability/Assumption of Risk/Indemnification.

# Why?

- Registration process is easier for athletes and families by removing the barrier of getting a physical examination prior to participation.
- Ensures essential health information is collected.
- The previous Athlete Medical Form has been determined by SOI as complex and challenging for some athletes and families to complete.
- The information collected on the new Athlete Registration Form has been determined by SOI as the minimum essential information needed by coaches.

# How?

- Forms still need to be sent to the Madison Headquarters office via mail or email.
- The new Registration Forms will be valid for 1 year from the date they are signed, not submitted.

# The “But”

- There is a new medical form that will be used in the following circumstances:
  - Athletes participating in USA, Regional and World Games.
  - MedFest screenings - SOWI encourages all athletes to have a yearly examination.
  - Current athletes with a medical restriction will need the new medical or dr. release to lift their restriction.

# Questions?

# Coaches Update

New Process & Le

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# Why the change?

- Current process is very vague in training sport specific information for our coaches. It is doing them & our athletes a disservice by not training them appropriately.
- Want to give our coaches the opportunity to continue learning and progressing in their coaching journey.
- More aligned with SONA's level system, allowing a smoother process for coaches to coach at National or World Game opportunities.

# Concerns we Addressed

- Having all trainings/needs in one place:
  - All trainings and qualifications needed to coach at SOWI events will be uploaded to Voluntaro. Making it easy for coaches to track what they need & what their expiration dates are.
  - There will be some courses in the SONA portal, but these are NOT required to coach at SOWI events
- Time Commitment
  - The aim of all the trainings is to have them shorter, or as long, as the current coaches certification (45 minutes). We want to be vigilant of our volunteers time, while giving them the information needed.

# Concerns we Addressed

- Up-to-date Information
  - The courses will update with accurate rules information moving forwards. Rather than recycling the same course for our coaches every 3 years, there will be updates in the re-certification courses that will be required.

# Structure

Bronze (Level 1)	Silver (Level 2)	Gold (Level 3)
<b>Assistant Coach</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All Class A requirements</li> <li>- Concussion Course (Required every 3 years)</li> <li>- Signed Coaches Conduct</li> <li>- General Coaches Cert (Renamed Coaching Orientation) (Required every 3 years unless taking sport specific course)</li> </ul>	<b>State/Regional Events Head Coach</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All Bronze Requirements</li> <li>- SOWI Sport Specific Course (Re-taken every 3 years to keep updated on rules &amp; events)</li> </ul>	<b>USA/World Games Coach</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All Bronze &amp; Silver Requirements.</li> <li>- NGB or NFHS course in sport.</li> </ul> One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A SOWI Sport Specific course, different from what they are already trained in.</li> <li>- Sports Rules Article 1*</li> <li>- Planning a Training Session*</li> <li>- Planning a Season*</li> <li>- Sports Nutrition for Coaches* OR Fitness for the Sport Coach*</li> <li>- First Aid / CPR Course**</li> </ul>

\* Course is hosted on the SONA elearning portal

\*\* Course is hosted by the Red Cross Foundation



# Existing Certification Level

- ALL coaches who are certified on 01/01/2026, will automatically become Silver Level coaches.
- Providing that ALL Class A requirements are also met.

# Gold Level

- When a coaches reaches Gold level, they are ready to coach at National / World Games. The requirements for this level are the same as SONA, to make things easier for our coaches to have this opportunity.
- We recognize that we have a number of coaches who have been coaching for a long time and know their sports inside out. SOWI will make the decision whether these coaches need to continue to take recertification courses. They will have to retake any Class A or concussion course every 3 years. (Please be patient as we work through this!)

# Examples

Matt LaFleur chooses to coach Flag Football for SOWI.

He meets the Gold requirements for having the appropriate sport coaching qualifications. However, having never worked with SO Athletes before, he would still need to take the Class A requirements, and the Coaching Orientation before he can be classified as a Gold Level coach.



# Examples

Joe's daughter is now old enough to participate in SOWI events and is interested in competing in Cornhole. Their program does not have a Cornhole coach, and Joe has never coached before.

Joe will need to complete all the Class A requirements, the Coaches Orientation and the Cornhole specific course, so that he is able to coach his daughters team at a SOWI event.

# Examples

Mary has been coaching for SOWI for 10 years. Her program has just started offering Tennis to their athletes. Mary has never coached Tennis before, but has her sport specific training for Soccer.

She will still need to take the Tennis sport specific course so that she can coach Tennis at a SOWI event.

# Why Sport-Specific?

- To ensure that our coaches understand the rules for events.
- To give a base knowledge of how to coach different skills & requirements for the sport. Benefitting our athletes!
- The re-certification courses will be a refresher on rules & techniques to maintain & knowledge. Quicker than the General Coaches Cert re-take!

# What if the Coach coaches multiple sports?

- They need to take the Sport specific course for each sport. However, with each course lasting 3 years, they can spread out when they take different courses over three years.
- There might be scenarios where coaches with extensive knowledge of the sport (based on time coached, qualifications) won't need to retake the sport specific course, and we can keep them active in that sport.

# What about the General Coaches Cert Expiration Date?

- New Coaches Orientation course will be uploaded just before the New Year. This will still have a three year expiration.
- We are honoring any existing expiration dates. So, if a coach takes the Coaches Cert on 11/02/2025. Their expiration, regardless of sport specific courses, will be 11/02/2028. They just need to re-take the coaches orientation, or their sport specific course before this date to become active after this date.

# Questions?

**THANK YOU!**



# Special Ol

Registration Paper

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# Types of Divisioning

- Individual Sports
  - Based on:
    - Time
    - Distance
    - Age/Gender (not in all cases)/
- Team Sports
  - Qualifying games (min. of 2 required)
    - Information shared

# Registration Forms

- For Team Sports
  - The more information the better - Detailed Notes
  - Information about both teams and match-up helps in divisioning accuracy
  - Readable information

# Registration Form

**2023 DISTRICT/REGIONAL TEAM BASKETBALL**

Please Print Clearly:  
 Local Program Number: [REDACTED]  
 Total Agency number of coaches and chaperones that will be attending this district tournament: 4  
*Reminder: athlete to coaches/chaperone ratio is minimum of 4:1*  
 Will you be taking qualifying team to the sectional tournament?  Yes  No  
**LIST ALL BASKETBALL GAMES PLAYED THIS SEASON.**  
(A minimum of TWO GAMES must be documented here before the registration deadline date. ONE game must be played against a team from another Special Olympics Agency.)

**\*\*Remember – the more information you give us, the more accurate your divisioning\*\***

LOCAL PROGRAM NUMBER	OPPOSING TEAM OFFICIAL NAME	DATE OF GAME	YOUR SCORE	THEIR SCORE
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1-8-23	21	20
Comments:				
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1-8-23	10	37
Comments:				
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1-28-23	14	28
Comments:				
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1-28-23	32	20
Comments:				

- A close game and some blowouts. Understanding why is key
  - Players missing?
  - Better team?

# Received Registration Form

**Please Print Clearly:**

Local Program Number: 4-08 Local Program Name: Green Lake County

Team Name: Bulldogs

Total Local Program number of coaches and chaperones that will be attending this district tournament: 3

**Reminder:** athlete to coach/chaperone ratio is minimum of 4:1

Will you be taking qualifying team(s) to the State tournament?  Yes  No

**LIST ALL SOFTBALL GAMES PLAYED THIS SEASON**

(A minimum of **TWO GAMES** must be documented before the registration deadline date. **ONE** game must be played against a team from another Special Olympics Local Program.)

LOCAL PROGRAM NUMBER	OPPOSING TEAM OFFICIAL NAME	DATE OF MATCH	YOUR SCORE	THEIR SCORE
5-15	Wizards	6/28/25	16	3
Comments: The Wizards (Green Bay Metros) was the team we played in the 2024 Districts and lost to. They are a different team who their Head Coach Rick told me that they lost a lot of their good players this year. They were a lower division team, not a good match for us.				
4-25	Soar Foxes	6/28/25	17	0
Comments: The Foxes should be in the lowest division possible. They are a beginner team that is just learning how to play the game. It is also their first year playing. Not a good match for us.				

**2025 DISTRICT/REGIONAL TEAM BASKETBALL**

**Please Print Clearly:**

Local Program Number: 5-03 Team Name: Syble Hopp Kangaroos

Total Agency number of coaches and chaperones that will be attending this district tournament: 3

**Reminder:** athlete to coaches/chaperone ratio is minimum of 4:1

Will you be taking qualifying team to the sectional tournament?  X Yes  No

**LIST ALL BASKETBALL GAMES PLAYED THIS SEASON.**

(A minimum of **TWO GAMES** must be documented here before the registration deadline date. **ONE** game must be played against a team from another Special Olympics Agency.)

**\*\*Remember – the more information you give us, the more accurate your divisioning\*\***

LOCAL PROGRAM NUMBER	OPPOSING TEAM OFFICIAL NAME	DATE OF GAME	YOUR SCORE	THEIR SCORE
4-06	Neenah Red	1/25/25	34	18
Comments: We played this team twice last year. Winning by two in our first tournament and losing by six at Regionals. The Syble Hopp Kangaroos jumped out to a big lead in the first half. However, the second half the score was 12-10. The second half is probably more indicative of the competitive nature between these two teams. If you didn't want the Syble Hopp Kangaroos in the same division as Neenah Red, I would suggest putting them one division higher.				
4-25	SOAR Bandits	1/25/25	30	11
Comments: The Syble Hopp Kangaroos should be a division or two above the SOAR Bandits.				
Comments: Based on watching other teams at this Neenah Tournament, the Bay Navigators East would be a good fit in a division with the Syble Hopp Kangaroos.				



# Divisioning Keys

- Information coming from one individual not multiple
  - Unable to know when all received
  - Having to transfer information into 1 document

# Received via Text - phone

Additional email you would like games information sent to:

**RETURN THIS FORM TO THE HOST REGIONAL OFFICE BY THE PUBLISHED DEADLINE DATE!**

**COACH - CHAPERONE ROSTER**  
 PLEASE LIST THE COACHES AND CHAPERONES WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANYING YOUR GROUP. YOU MUST adhere to an athlete/chaperone ratio that is between 3:1 and 4:1. Prior approval must be received from the Regional office for other athlete/coach ratios.

**IMPORTANT:** Chaperones must be 16 years of age or older. No un-named chaperones are allowed. All chaperones must be approved, active SOWI CLASS A VOLUNTEERS by the entry deadline date.

Athletes-As-Coaches (AAC) are to be listed under CERTIFIED COACHES. The AAC athlete-to-athlete ratio is one per team sport (including bocce, relay teams and bowling teams) and one per every 12 athletes in the individual sports (including bocce, relay teams and bowling teams). Please indicate any Athletes-As-Coaches by checking the box in the AAC column.

CERTIFIED COACHES	ATHLETES-AS-COACHES (AAC)
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

"I verify that all of coaches and chaperones in attendance are 16 years of age or older and are Class A approved. In addition, all Athletes-As-Coaches listed above meet the criteria for the AAC Program."

Local Program Manager Signature      Date

**2025 DISTRICT/REGIONAL TEAM BASKETBALL REGISTRATION**

*Please Print Clearly:*

Each team must have a unique name, up to 15 characters long. This name will be used at all competitions.

**CHECK ALL ITEMS:**

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12

One team per form. \*\*Registration information for this event will be sent to the person listed as head coach.

By submitting this form I verify that the athletes on this roster competed in at least two of the documented qualifying games (check %).

(OVER)

**2025 DISTRICT/REGIONAL TEAM BASKETBALL**

**Please Print Clearly:**  
 Local Program Number:      Team Name:  
 Total Agency number of coaches and chaperones that will be attending this district tournament:

*Reminder: athlete to coaches/chaperone ratio is minimum of 4:1*

Will you be taking qualifying team to the sectional tournament? Yes      No

**LIST ALL BASKETBALL GAMES PLAYED THIS SEASON.**  
 (A minimum of TWO GAMES must be documented here before the registration deadline date. ONE game must be played against a team from another Special Olympics Agency.)

**\*\*Remember - the more information you give us, the more accurate your divisioning\*\***

LOCAL PROGRAM NUMBER	OPPOSING TEAM OFFICIAL NAME	DATE OF GAME	YOUR SCORE	THEIR SCORE

Comments:



# Divisioning keys cont.

- Can no longer accept registration forms sent from a picture on a phone Difficult to read – information unreliable and illegible
  - Difficult to download

# Received Registration Form

- Types of Handwriting received:
  - Samples of handwritten styles *OF Local Program OF Another Style*  
*Finally another sample of received style*

Everyone is unique in their styles, but some just take a bit longer to understand and to prevent confusion when handwriting, please print.

# Request for One means of submittal

- SOWI ADs currently receives registration forms via:
  - Regular Mail
  - Email
  - Zoom Text message
  - Personal phone Text Message

\*Must use the online registration forms and scanned/emailed to the Regional AD\*

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Sports

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# 2025/2026 Sports Season

# Special Ol

Operations

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# Who do you call??

- Volunteers?
- Coach training?
- Tournament registrations and fees
- Accounts Payable?
- Gift Receipts
- Month-end financials
- Allowable/Non-Allowable Expenses
- Community Event Fundraisers

# Allowable Expenses

- Coach and athlete uniforms
- Volunteer fuel reimbursement
- Gift card for volunteer appreciation
- Outreach materials
- Celebration/entertainment expenses

# Allowable Expenses cont.

- Office supplies, such as envelopes and postage
- Snacks and meals for athletes and coaches
- Cell phone service
- Vehicle or asset purchases
- What is the amount that an LP must notify for approval?
- Technology – Laptop or printer?

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## FAMILIES

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# Who Are Special Olympics WI Families?

- Families of Special Olympics Wisconsin (SOWI) athletes and Young Athletes® play an important role in the accomplishments and success of SOWI and its athletes. They are:
  - Ambassadors, volunteers, coaches, Unified Partners, fundraisers and “fans in the stands”
  - Parents, caregivers and siblings
  - First-hand witnesses to the positive impact participation in SOWI has on their child, sibling, or loved one

# Empowering Family Leaders

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# Family Leadership Council

- Family leaders can enhance communication, collaboration and engagement among Special Olympics Wisconsin families.
- Goal - Foster a supportive and inclusive community for Special Olympics Wisconsin families by creating a Family Leadership Council where families can network, access resources and contribute to the success of their local program and SOWI.

# Family Leaders Will...

- Understand the goals and structure of their local program and SOWI and will be part of the Local Program Management Team.
- Provide families information, resources and guidance on Special Olympics involvement.
- Develop and promote family engagement.
- Provide feedback on family engagement initiatives and needs of families both on off the playing field.
- Empower families as leaders of inclusion in SOWI and their communities, to support the growth of the local program and SOWI.

# Council Membership

- 3-5 family members per region. No prior experience on committees and, while helpful, no prior experience in Special Olympics needed.
- Members will include families of athletes of all ages, years of participation, and ability levels.
- 1 year term limit, with opportunity to renew

# Responsibilities of FLC Members

- Attend a virtual two-hour workshop at beginning of term.
- Regularly attend FLC meetings.
- Be a Class A Volunteer.
- Participate actively in FLC goals and tasks.
- Complete two FLC projects by end of term.
- Mentor new families and families needing assistance within their assigned local programs.
- Provide family feedback and input.

# Implementation Timeline

- Initial Request to Local Programs (May)
- Presentation to Local Programs (September)
- Create Families Webpage on SOWI website (October – may be delayed)
- Add Interest Form on website, Inspire Newsletter, begin gathering responses, send Interest Form to Families (November)
- Finalize Committee (Dec)
- 1st Meeting (mid January) and vote for Chair, Chair-Elect and Secretary

# Questions?

# Healthy A Health Init

Jeston Glish, Health Programs Manager

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# Agenda

- Healthy Athletes
- Inclusive Health Trainings
- Athlete Health Messenger
- Wellness and Fitness Programming

# Healthy Athletes® Disciplines

Special Olympics Wisconsin provides FREE health screenings in 8 different disciplines.



**Fit Feet**  
(Podiatry)



**Fun Fitness**  
(Physical Therapy)



**Health Promotion**  
(Health and Wellness)



**Healthy Hearing**  
(Audiology)



**MedFest**  
(Sports Physicals)



**Opening Eyes**  
(Vision)



**Special Smiles**  
(Dental)



**Strong Minds**  
(Emotional Well-being)

# Inclusive Health Trainings

- During these trainings we discuss health disparities for people with ID, barriers to good health, and solutions to make healthcare better for this population.
- We also discuss local and statewide volunteer opportunities to get involved.
- Presentations are for students and health related professionals

# Athlete Health Messenger

- Health Messengers are athletes who are trained to serve as health and wellness leaders, educators, advocates and role models within their Special Olympics communities, as well as the community at large.
- 4 – Week Workshop, offered 2-3 times per year
- Interested in learning more?
  - Kayla Loeber - [kloeber@specialolympicswisconsin.org](mailto:kloeber@specialolympicswisconsin.org)

# Wellness and Fitness Programming

- Performance Stations
  - Regional Spring Event, Spring Games & State Volleyball
- Fitness Captains
  - Like Health Messenger but specifically focuses on leading dynamic warmups and cool downs at practice.
- SOfit
  - Unified Approach to improving health and wellness
- Community Opportunities
- SO Fitness App
  - Fitness Challenges

# Fitness Through Sport Playbook

- The Fitness through Sport Playbook is designed to provide Special Olympics coaches with information and ideas to introduce fitness topics to athletes.

Check out the Fitness Through  
Sport website



## Let's Warm up!

A warm-up should be the first physical activity in every training session or competition. A good warm-up helps you to reach a state of physical and mental readiness.

A proper warm-up should include aerobic activity & dynamic stretching

Try this warm up routine:

### 1) Aerobic Activity

- 3-5 minutes of (pick one) - March in place, walking or light jog

2) Dynamic Stretches - Dynamic stretches consist of active, controlled movements that take body parts through a full range of motion.

- Perform each stretch 20 times (10 times on each side)
  - Arm Swings
  - Arm Circles
  - Side Reaches
  - Windmill Toe Touches
  - Torso Twists
  - Hip Circles
  - Toe Walks
  - Heel Walks
  - Lateral Leg Swings
  - Forward Leg Swings
  - Lateral Lunges
  - Walking High Kicks
  - Butt Kicks
  - High Knees

[Follow along with the guide here](#)



Questions? Contact Jeston Glish - [jglish@specialolympicswisconsin.org](mailto:jglish@specialolympicswisconsin.org)

# Questions?



# Thank you.

Jeston Glish, [jGLISH@specialolympicswisconsin.org](mailto:jGLISH@specialolympicswisconsin.org)

# Fall Meeting Wrap-up

- Accreditations open until **Oct. 31, 2025**
  - LP Budget
  - Succession Plan
- LP Guide Updated
  - Complete version by section on SOWI Website: [Local Program Management - Special Olympics Wisconsin](#)
  - Also includes condensed version
    - Part of packet
- Future Fall Meetings
  - None
    - Quarterly - Virtual
    - Topic driven

# Questions???

- Form in folder to fill out and leave at the main table
- Email your Regional Staff or the Sr. Director of Field Services
- If a specific call – refer to the “Who do you call” sheet
- FAQs will be put together and uploaded to the SOWI website under Local Program Management section

"Let me  
but if I  
let me  
in the a

– Athlete Oath

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