**SPECIAL OLYMPICS** **WISCONSIN**

**2017-2018 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 2016-2017 Program year. Coaches should review the rules annually in order to become familiar with any changes that have been made.

1. **Electronic Medical and Class A form submission.** SOWI is now able to accept Athlete Medical forms and Class A Forms via email. Athlete medical forms can now be sent to medicals@specialolympicswisconsin.org. Class A forms can now be sent to classa@specialolympicswisconsin.org. **For Security purposes, please DO NOT send forms via other SOWI email addresses!** In addition, Class A forms can now be filled out and submitted electronically following the link under the volunteer tab on the SOWI website. SOWI will continue to accept paper copies of forms submitted via the postal service.
2. **Updates to Code of** **Conduct**
3. **Unified Bocce** has been added as an event for the Outdoor Sports Season. Competition will be offered at all District Bocce events as well as the State Outdoor Sports Tournament.
4. **Games Fees.** The games fees for Summer Games have increased slightly to account for increases to housing and meal costs. Please see Summer Games registration forms in section E for details.
5. **Gymnastics.** Will be held as a stand-alone event. Athletes participating in gymnastics will have the opportunity to participate in basketball skills or team basketball in addition to gymnastics, and athletes participating in basketball skills and team basketball may now participate in gymnastics if they wish. Registration forms will be available by contacting the event director. See Section E for details.
6. **Powerlifting.** Will be held as a stand-alone event, and will no longer be offered as part of Summer Games. Athletes participating in Powerlifting will have the opportunity to participate in other Summer Season sports (athletics, swimming, soccer), and athletes participating in athletics, swimming and soccer will now have the opportunity to participate in powerlifting if they wish . Registration forms will be available by contacting the event director. See Section B for event date and Section E for registration details.
7. **Tennis.** Will no longer be offered as part of the Outdoor Sports Tournament. Tennis will be offered on a different date and at a different location (currently TBD). Athletes participating in tennis will have the opportunity to participate in other Outdoor Season sports (bocce, softball, golf), and athletes participating in softball, bocce and golf, may now participate in tennis if they wish.
8. **Flag Football**. A unified competition day has been added for Sunday October 8th following the State Flag Football Event. Teams are encouraged to participate in both events.
9. **Winter Games Forms** – Due to lack of orders, the option to purchase Sunday lunches at the venue has been eliminated.
10. **Unified Bowling.** Registration forms for both Unified Bowling events have been added. Please see Section B for tournament dates and section E for registration forms.
11. **Unified Relays** have been added for track and swimming competitions. Please contact the tournament host to register.
12. **Terminology changes**: The term Hometown Games will no longer be used. Instead, Regional Competitions will now be referred to as Regional Track and Field.
13. **Team Basketball**. Uniform rules pertaining to under shirts (long sleeve) have been added. The lane entry rule following free throws has been updated to be in compliance with National Federation rules.
14. **Basketball Skills.** The role of designated passer (Level II Catch and Pass) skill must now be filled by a volunteer (not the coach).
15. **Softball / Tee ball.** The rule regarding intentional walks has been updated. The team in the field may now simply declare that they are intentionally walking the batter and are not required to pitch to the batter being walked. The rules concerning the requirement of infielders to wear a facemask will be updated next year (for the 2018-2019 Competition Guide). Face masks for pitchers, as well as first and third basemen will be required. SOWI is letting teams know now to allow for time to prepare and purchase equipment. As a reminder, any player in the field may choose to wear a facemask if he or she chooses.