



Special Olympics *Texas*

Dear Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) Friend:

The 2012 SOTX Information Guide (SIG) contains important information which you are responsible for reviewing and understanding. Each year, we provide updated information about our policies, sports rules, fundraising guidelines, financial requirements and communications strategies. As an athlete, coach, volunteer, donor or family member, you play a crucial role in helping us meet our mission. It is important that you help uphold the policies and procedures of SOTX outlined in this document.

It is an exciting time to be involved, as we watch our athlete numbers, programs and organization grow. Our focus is to continue to expand the opportunities and services we provide, and we ask that you help us do just that. Invite your friends, family members, co-workers and acquaintances to be a fan of Special Olympics Texas. Urge them to become a volunteer or coach. As you know, it is a life-changing experience for all involved.

Thank you for being a fan of our athletes.

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INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Mission

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, giving 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.

Vision Statement

It is our vision to become the premier provider of Special Olympics training and competition in the world. We approach each endeavor with a single intent – to improve the quality of life for our athletes. The challenges of the future are embraced with enthusiasm and commitment, ensuring that the changing face and needs of our athletes are met.

Athlete Oath

“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”

Statement of Philosophy

Special Olympics is founded on the belief that people with intellectual disabilities can, with proper instruction and encouragement, learn, enjoy and benefit from participation in individual and team sports.

Special Olympics believes that consistent training is essential to the development of sports skills, and that competition among those of equal abilities is the most appropriate means of testing these skills, measuring progress and providing incentives for personal growth.

Special Olympics believes that through sports training and competition, people with intellectual disabilities benefit physically, mentally, socially and spiritually; families are strengthened; and the community at large, both through participation and observation, is united in understanding people with intellectual disabilities in an environment of equality, respect and acceptance.

2012 SIG SUMMARY OF CHANGES AND UPDATES

All changes/updates for 2012, with the exception of new forms, are highlighted in black throughout this publication.

Section B

- Flag football has been added to the sport restricted list for athletes with Atlantoaxial instability on page B-2.
- New instructions for the athlete medical are on page B-3.
- Clarification has been made to the Athlete Code of Conduct on pages B-4 and B-11.
- An updated Special Release for Athletes with Atlantoaxial Instability form is on pages B-5 to B-6.
- An updated Athlete Enrollment/Medical Release Form is on pages B-7 to B-8.

Section C

- Types of volunteer opportunities are on page C-2.
- Requirements regarding Class A volunteers are on page C-6.
- Guidelines about DWI restrictive disqualifiers and deferred adjudication status can be found on page C-8.
- An updated Class A Volunteer Application is on page C-15.



- An updated Class A Minor Reference Form is on page C-17.

Section D

- There is new information regarding W-9 forms for vendors on page D-4.
- An updated Acknowledgement of SOTX Policy Regarding Banking Arrangements Form is on page D-5.

Section E

- The Coaching Staff requirement listing regarding the age range has been clarified on page E-7.

Section F

- Requirements for All Trainers and Officials are on page F-5.
- An updated Application for Sports Training Certification is on page F-13.

Section G

- The SOTX Animal/Pet Policy is on page G-5.

Section H

- The Special Olympics Corporate Insurance Program (SOCIP) is outlined on pages H-5 to H-10.

Section J

- Information about Project UNIFY - Meet in the Middle can be found on pages J-2 to J-3.

Section K

- New information regarding the restructured Unified Programs is available on pages K-1 to K-4.
- Unified Sports flag football guidelines are on page K-7.
- New rules for Unified Sports triathlon are on pages K-8 and K-9.

Section L

- The 2012 SMT meeting schedule is on page L-3.

Section M

- References to the new official sport of flag football have been added throughout the entire section.
- The Application to Host a Local Competition or Event Form has been updated on page M-13.
- The new Flag Football Team Evaluation Questionnaire is on page M-15.
- A new Softball Team Evaluation Questionnaire is on page M-16.

Section N

- The updated registration fee for chapter Games is on page N-1.
- New information regarding the chapter Games entry process is on page N-2.
- The latest event codes can be found on pages N-4 to N-7.
- A new Athlete Entry Form example is on pages N-13 to N-14.
- A new Athlete Entry Form is on pages M-15 to N-16.

Section O

- The 2012 Sports Calendar is on page O-1.
- Updates to the Sports Table are on pages O-2 to O-5.

Section P

- The entry fee for Summer Games is on page P-1.
- The Summer Games sports participation rule is on page P-2.
- A new chapter sport maximum for basketball is on page P-2.
- New mini-javelin guidelines are on page P-3.
- New athletics information regarding preliminary competitions is on page P-3.
- There is an update to Athletics General Information on page P-4.
- There is clarification regarding Pentathlon criteria on page P-5.
- There is an addition regarding Basketball Team Competition guidelines on page P-7.



- Cycling Events Offered is updated on page P-8.
- Information regarding Equestrian Events Offered has been updated on pages P-9 and P-10.
- Updates to Artistic Gymnastics Levels are on pages P-12 to P-13.
- A notation regarding the kayaking registration fee is on page P-13.
- There is an update to Soccer General Information on page P-15.

Section Q

- The updated entry fee for Fall Classic is on page Q-1.
- New clarifications on bocce rules are on page Q-6.
- Flag football information and rules are on pages Q-6 to Q-7.
- An addition regarding the chapter sailing competition fee is on page Q-8.
- A rule regarding seizure-prone sailing crew members is on page Q-9.
- Information regarding Softball Individuals Skills entries is on page Q-10.
- New guidelines about softball team competition are on page Q-10.
- Additional general information rules for triathlon are on page Q-13.
- A new Softball Individual Skills Scoresheet is on pages Q-15 to Q-16.

Section R

- The Winter Games entry fee is on page R-1.
- Information regarding ramp bowling is on pages R-3 and R-4.
- The volleyball rule regarding athletes who use assisted devices is on page R-11.
- New Volleyball Individual Skills Contest Forms are on pages R-15 to R-16.

Section S

- Updated information regarding insurance for fund raising events is on page S-2.
- Additional information regarding tax deductions for gifts to teams is on page S-3.
- A team grant maximum request is outlined on page S-3.
- The updated Protected Corporate and Organizational Contacts list is on pages S-4 through S-9.
- The Team/Committee Event Planning Checklist on pages S-13 to S-15 has been updated.

Section T

- Additional suggestions for support are listed on pages T-1 and T-2.
- A new Family Registration Form is on page T-4.

Section U

- Updated guidelines regarding posting events on Facebook/social media pages can be found on page U-2.
- An updated Logo Usage Form is on page U-10.
- An updated Website Application Form is on page U-11.
- A new crisis phone line is listed on page U-12.

Section V

- The updated list of Area Training Directors is on page V-1.
- The updated list of Sport Directors can be found on page V-2.
- The up-to-date area office listing is on page V-6.

Special Olympics Texas' 2012 Official Partners:

