

## **Summary of Changes and Updates**

New or updated information will be shown in blue italic within each section of the SIG. Below is a summary of all changes/updates since 2018:

### **Section A – Introduction**

Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) is excited to be moving in a new direction to better support our athletes by becoming a highly visible community outreach and program delivery organization, which will be accomplished through new Mobility and Accessibility models for delivering programs. This new direction is based on a philosophy that SOTX's responsibility is to provide high-level inclusive programming while engaging existing and new community partners throughout the state of Texas, and this cannot be achieved and realized from a centralized model. SOTX must utilize existing community-based assets and provide these partners with needed expertise and programming assistance.

#### **Mobility Plan**

The Mobility Plan will consist of a statewide distribution model that collaborates with transportation partners and SOTX Fleet Vehicles to deliver consistent high quality branded programming in all communities throughout the state of Texas. Important partners like Central Freight and Olympia Moving will be providing distribution facilities in three or more locations statewide, and other partners such as UPS, Walmart and Swift will be utilized to transport 28' and 53' trailers for competitions.

A fleet of SOTX vehicles will be developed through fundraising programs and vehicle manufacturing companies that will build up to a minimum of three vehicles and one program trailer per region. All vehicles will be used for constant outreach and program development opportunities throughout Texas. Included in this fleet will be operational, medical, and merchandise trailers that will increase program quality and revenue generation at all events.

#### **Accessibility Plan**

A comprehensive plan to utilize facilities that exist in all communities and use those locations to produce the high-quality events expected of SOTX. Utilizing existing relationships with community partners such as school districts, stadiums, universities, health clubs and corporations to deliver programs is already a common practice at SOTX. However, SOTX will provide high-level equipment that will leverage these partnerships and allow us to become the foundation for inclusive programming.

Special Olympics Texas will use mobile assets to support other organizations in the delivery of their missions as well, with the caveat that they allow SOTX to provide Unified (inclusive) training to their volunteers and staff and establish Unified programming within their organizations. This philosophy allows SOTX

to become a partner and provider for organizations in areas of need throughout Texas and be a resource for program supplies and support. This equipment allows SOTX to deepen our support of community and corporate partnerships, such as a barbecue event for Law Enforcement or Corporate Team Building Day for our valued supporters. The vision to build stronger existing and new relationships that generate support and programming will become a reality if Special Olympics Texas uses assets to their fullest potential.

### **Collaborative Resource Generation**

Special Olympics Texas will move to a collaborative fundraising model that develops fundraising as one unit to capitalize on the strong brand built by our Athletes. **We must compete against each other in sport, but not in resource and relationship development.** LETR, Knights of Columbus, Teams and other partners must work together as one to bring friends and funds to SOTX. This philosophy will generate the resources needed to create opportunities for all the Athletes.

### **Foundation for Programs**

Special Olympics will become the organization that can lift so many sports, art, mentoring and recreational programs to new heights in their communities. As we introduce Unified across the state of Texas we will rapidly become the hand up so many smaller organizations need, by giving them a partner of strength in their community, and in exchange they will provide inclusive opportunities through their organizations for the Athletes of SOTX.

### **Legacy Recognition**

SOTX is humbled by the dedicated and passionate donors who have contributed significantly to our fixed capital assets, and we will ensure those individuals are recognized appropriately through naming opportunities and permanent recognition on vehicles, trailers, warehouses and programming materials. Special Olympics Texas understands the great investments that have been made to help us reach this point, and we will never forget to honor those who support the great Athletes of Special Olympics Texas. This operational shift will enhance our reach and program quality for the Athletes, and we greatly thank you for the foundation all of our partners have built.

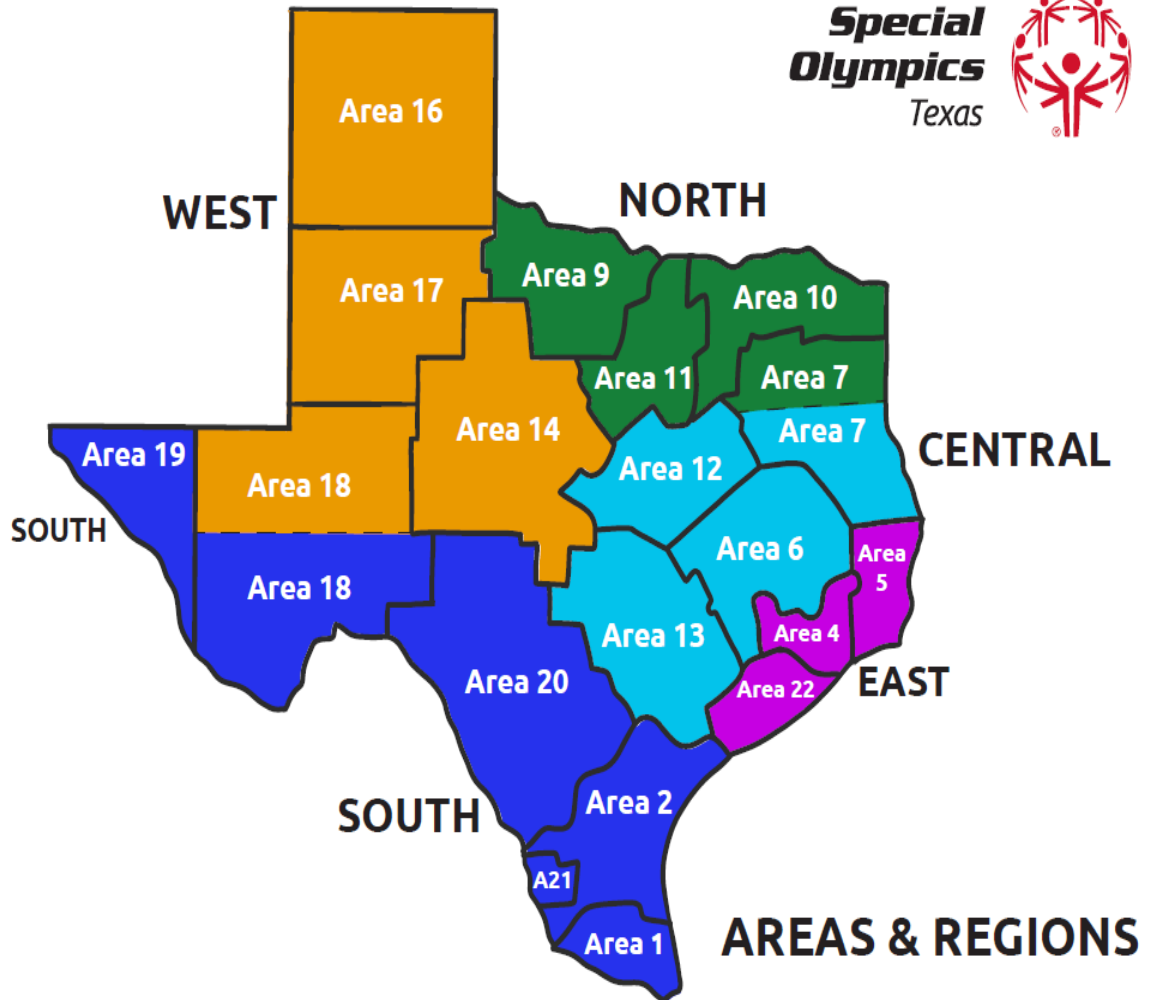
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Martin', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tim Martin  
President/CEO

## New Regional Structure

**Special  
Olympics**  
Texas



### **South Region**

Shawn Britt – Executive Director / [sbritt@sotx.org](mailto:sbritt@sotx.org)

Monica Vargas – Associate Executive Director / [mvargas@sotx.org](mailto:mvargas@sotx.org)

### **North Region**

Mike Strickland – Executive Director / [mstrickland@sotx.org](mailto:mstrickland@sotx.org)

Alex Hubbard – Associate Executive Director / [ahubbard@sotx.org](mailto:ahubbard@sotx.org)

### **East Region**

Renee Klovenski – Executive Director / [rklovenski@sotx.org](mailto:rklovenski@sotx.org)

Aaron Keith – Associate Executive Director / [akeith@sotx.org](mailto:akeith@sotx.org)

## **Central Region**

Jason Miller – Executive Director / [jmiller@sotx.org](mailto:jmiller@sotx.org)

## **West Region**

Ashley Pena – Executive Director / [apena@sotx.org](mailto:apena@sotx.org)

## **Section B - Athlete Eligibility**

Special Olympics is a valuable support system that celebrates diversity and greatness in all human beings. Special Olympics provides sport participation and meaningful experiences for all.

### **Eligibility for Participation**

Special Olympics was created and developed to give individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to train and compete in sports activities. No person shall, on the grounds of gender, race, religion, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, and/or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of Special Olympics.

Special Olympics Texas aims to build a society of acceptance and inclusion for people with and without intellectual disabilities in support for everyone. We know that sports training and competition can help achieve that goal.

### **Identification of Special Olympics Eligibility**

\*Athlete's age

- 2-7 may participate in Young Athletes and as Athletes in Training
- 8+ may train and compete in Local, Area, and State competitions

## **Section C - Volunteer**

- 2018 award winners:
  - Volunteer of the Year: Diego Esquivel
  - Male Athlete of the Year 15-21: Kip Joseph
  - Male Athlete of the Year 22+: Cole Randolph
  - Female Athlete of the Year 15 – 21: Sydney Weigand
  - Female Athlete of the Year 22+: Laryyn Lobue
  - Coach of the Year: Eduardo Mendiola
  - Trainer of the Year: Rose Antony
  - Outstanding Service from a Business/Corporation: Coldwell Banker United
  - Family of the Year: The Perry Family

- Outstanding Volunteer for Fund Raising: Tina Bentsen
- Outstanding Service from a Community Leader: Thomas Alonzo
- Outstanding Service from a Civic or Service Organization: Senior Junior Forum
- Outstanding Volunteer(s) for Sports and Competition: Bill & Evelyn Merrill
- Unified Sports Partner of the Year: Eddie Dyess

## **Section H – Risk Management**

- Clear Bag Policy

Out of safety concerns for athletes, coaches, volunteers and spectators at Special Olympics Texas competitions hosted at stadiums, Special Olympics Texas will abide by venues regulations to administer clear bag policy during Opening Ceremonies and Victory Dances.

## **Section J – Outreach Program**

- Unified Champion Schools promotes social inclusion by bringing together young people with and without disabilities on sports teams (Special Olympics Unified Sports) through inclusive student clubs, together in school or community-wide initiatives, and by fostering youth leadership.
- At its core, this Unified strategy is about unifying all students—with and without disabilities—using sports as a catalyst for social inclusion and attitude and behavioral change.
- Unified Champion Schools does not intend for students to simply be recipients of programming; instead, young people are the architects of lasting change and community building. Adults serve as allies to youth, rather than managers of youth.

## **Section M - Rules and Competition**

- Badminton will be added as a small demonstration sport based on interest level with potential to grow into statewide competition.
- Meals will be provided at all Statewide competitions for Athletes and credentialed coaching staff

## **Section N - Registration**

- Added to Event Codes:

CHINSC	cheer individual skills
CHNBNTT	cheer non build non tumble traditional
CHNBNTU	cheer non build non tumble unified
CHTNBT	cheer team non build traditional
CHTNBU	cheer team non build unified
CHTNTT	cheer team non tumble traditional
CHTNTU	cheer team non tumble unified
CHTBTT	cheer team build and tumble traditional
CHTBTU	cheer team build and tumble unified

- Consult your Area Office for your area chapter deadline
  - Chapter Games Schedule
    - January 31<sup>st</sup>- February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019: Winter Games (Austin)
    - May 2-5, 2019: Summer Games (San Antonio)
    - May 17-19, 2019: Equestrian Summer Games (Bryan)
    - May 17-19, 2019: Basketball & Cheer (Arlington)
    - Sailing and Kayaking: October 2019 (Dallas)
    - October 3-6, 2019: Fall Classic AQ, SB, BC, GF (Bryan-College Station)
    - December 6-7, 2019: Flag Football (San Antonio)

### **Section P - Summer Games**

- Morgan Wonderland in San Antonio new host site for 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Games.
  - Competitions held at area venues May 2, 2019 – May 5, 2019
- Soccer - Team soccer events (Traditional & Unified) at the State Games will be offered as an outdoor soccer event.
- Cheer – Cheer events at the State Games level will be offered with the State Games Basketball event.

### **Section Q – Fall Classic**

Aquatics - new event

- 25m Kickboard, 15m assisted swim, 25m assisted swim.
- Event can be held in either small or big pool based on Competition Director discretion.

### **Section S – Development**

- All grant proposals are coordinated through the Grants Team at the SOTX Support Services office. If you have identified a viable foundation prospect, please submit this information to the Grants Manager

(grantwriter.support@sotx.org), who will review your request to complete a grant application on behalf of the Team.

- The Grants Manager and/or the Chief Development Officer will determine if an individual, on behalf of a Team, is approved to proceed with an application or denied approval on a case-by-case basis.
- Area staff will be asked to provide information to the Grants Manager regarding the delegation's standing. Individuals approved to proceed with applications are asked to submit proposals to the Grants Manager for approval a minimum of two weeks prior to the due date. Please submit all forms, letters, etc. that are required. The Grants Manager will review and revise/edit as necessary.
- Applications requiring the signature of an authorized SOTX representative must be signed by SOTX staff on behalf of SOTX. Please submit all documentation needing signatures to the Grants Manager, who will coordinate with appropriate SOTX staff.
- Consult the Protected Corporate and Organizational Contacts list in the SIG prior to submitting a proposal request to the Grants Manager; please note the most current list is maintained by the Grants Manager and will be consulted during the pre-approval process. Teams may not apply for funding from protected foundations identified by the Grants Manager as SOTX funders/prospects.
- Grant funds received by teams that were not reviewed and approved by the Grants Manager prior to submission are subject to refusal by Special Olympics Texas, Inc. All grants are subject to final review by Special Olympics Texas, Inc.'s President/CEO and/or Board of Directors.
- All team patrons need to be reviewed through the SOTX Support Services office.

#### Signature Events –

- Breakfast of Champions

An SOTX fundraising event honoring the accomplishments of SOTX athletes. The breakfast, typically lasting an hour, features inspirational stories that demonstrate the power of inclusion from athletes and leaders in the community. The event is emceed by a local news personality and includes the presence and participation of local law enforcement, the president and CEO of SOTX, and other prominent members of the community. Breakfast with Champions invites those in attendance to embrace the Inclusion Revolution, creating real social change through equality and acceptance for all. This fundraising event is free to attend.

Contact Chief Development Officer, Miguel Quezada [mquezada@sotx.org](mailto:mquezada@sotx.org)/  
520-262-1955 to get involved.

## **Section V - Names and Addresses**

- Cheer Training Director: Crystal Wells