

2018 Policy Updates

Change From	Change To
Athlete Participation – No Mandatory Criminal Background Checks of Athletes	<p>Added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletes attending World or National Games will be subject to a background check. • An area director can request a background check if they suspect an athlete has an issue <p>A background check will be conducted on an adult Unified Partner to participate</p>
Sports Training – Unified Coaches #6: Coach and Partner – Unified coaches can act as a coach and partner for the following sports: Bowling, Golf and Cycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #6: Coach and Partner – There has to be a non-playing coach for all unified sports.
Sports Training – Training for Coaches The head coach of a team sport and head coach of an individual sport (1 to 30 Athletes) must be certified to get awards at State Competition.	The head coach of a team sport and head coach of an individual sport (1 to 16 Athletes) must be certified to get awards at State Competition.
Sports Training – Coaching Special Olympics Athletes Course This course is designed for the new coach with sport experience and the veteran Special Olympics coach looking to improve his or her training and coaching skills. This course deals with coaching athletes with intellectual disabilities including mental health, psychological, and other social considerations.	<p>This course is designed for the new coach with sport experience and the veteran Special Olympics coach looking to improve his or her training and coaching skills. This course deals with coaching athletes with intellectual disabilities including mental health, psychological, and other social considerations.</p> <p>This course is offered through American Sports Education Program for \$16.95. It is a great course for new coaches in preparation for their first Special Olympics coaching role. This course prepares coaches to use their sport-specific knowledge in coaching athletes with intellectual disabilities. For veteran Special Olympics coaches, this course serves as a reminder of the essentials sometimes forgotten after years of coaching.</p> <p>This course can be found at http://www.asep.com/asep_content/org/SONA.cfm</p>
Sports Training – Unified Sports Course Special Olympics Unified Sports® is a program that combines approximately equal numbers of Special Olympics athletes and athletes without intellectual disabilities (partners) on sports teams for training and competition. Age and ability matching of athletes and partners is specifically defined on a sport-by-sport basis. Unified	<p>Special Olympics Unified Sports® is a program that combines approximately equal numbers of Special Olympics athletes and athletes without intellectual disabilities (partners) on sports teams for training and competition. Age and ability matching of athletes and partners is specifically defined on a sport-by-sport basis. Unified Sports® enables athletes to develop higher-level sports skills and experience meaningful inclusion in their community. In addition to taking the Unified Sports® Course each person needs to obtain sports specific certification to be a certified coach. This training can be taken online @ NFHSlern.com/courses/36000</p>

2018 Program Guide Updates

<p>Sports® enables athletes to develop higher-level sports skills and experience meaningful inclusion in their community. This training can be taken online @ NFHSlearn.com/courses/36000</p>	
<p>Sports Training – Principles of Coaching Course</p> <p>This course is non-sport specific and seeks to expand more of the sport sciences. It addresses the basic principles of coaching, coaching philosophy, planning and coaching administration, fitness and conditioning, and safety and risk management.</p>	<p>This course is non-sport specific and seeks to expand more of the sport sciences. It addresses the basic principles of coaching, coaching philosophy, planning and coaching administration, fitness and conditioning, and safety and risk management.</p> <p>This course is offered through West Virginia Continuing Education for \$35.00. Coaches who have completed a Sport Specific Skills or Coaching Special Olympics Athletes Course may take this course to maintain or upgrade certification in their respective sports. This non-sport specific course is based on the sciences of successful coaching. This course is equivalent to the classroom POC course.</p> <p>http://continuing.wvu.edu</p>
<p>Sports Training - New course added</p>	<p>Introduction to Autism</p> <p>A Coach’s Playbook: Introduction to Autism and Instructional Strategies for Coaching</p> <p>This three part course is offered through Special Olympics Virginia for FREE! As the diagnosis of autism is becoming more prevalent, it is important for coaches and volunteers to be trained to work alongside athletes who have Autism Spectrum Disorders. This training course gives an introduction to the disorder and also provides strategies for coaching athletes with Autism.</p> <p>This course can be found at: http://specialolympicsva.org/sports/coaches-corner/a-coachs-playbook-autism</p>
<p>Sports Training – Comprehensive Mentoring</p> <p>In this course, the coach works with and is mentored by a certified coach in that sport in Special Olympics and/or in the mainstream. The mentoring coach must have at least 5 years’ experience coaching SO Athletes. The coach participates in a variety of opportunities such as staff briefings, practice sessions,</p>	<p>In this course, the coach works with and is mentored by a certified coach in that sport in Special Olympics and/or in the mainstream. The mentoring coach must have at least 5 years’ experience coaching SO Athletes. The coach participates in a variety of opportunities such as staff briefings, practice sessions, weight training sessions and competitions. This program offers an alternative method to becoming certified.</p> <p>This process is intended for those coaches who have coached outside of Special Olympics for many years (possibly at the high school or college level). To</p>

2018 Program Guide Updates

<p>weight training sessions and competitions. This program offers an alternative method to becoming certified.</p>	<p>obtain certification through the mentoring program coaches have to coach alongside an established certified Special Olympics coach (minimum of 5 years' experience is required to be a mentoring coach) in their particular sport for <u>10</u> hours and so some additional work outlined on the application, including developing practice plans, attending competitions, and completing the required Class A volunteer documents. After the coach has coached for the 10 hours and done the additional work outlined on the form, they submit the form to the State Office. Once approved, the individual will be certified to coach the following sport season (for example, if a coach completes mentoring for basketball during the 2017 season they will be certified to coach in the 2018 season).</p>
<p>Sports Training – Individual Sports The head coach for a group of athletes training in a sport must be certified at a ratio of one certified coach for every 30 athletes.</p>	<p>The head coach for a group of athletes training in a sport must be certified at a ratio of one certified coach for every 16 athletes.</p>
<p>Sports Training – Resources for Coaches (and others in competition positions) Available at www.somi.org</p>	<p>www.somi.org Resource Page</p>
<p>Sports Training – Equipment</p>	<p>Please contact Aaron Goodnough via email at agoodnough@bsnsports.com or 248-872-6930</p>
<p>SOMI Culminating Events Information – Selecting Athletes to Attend SOMI Culminating Events All athletes are required to travel and stay with the area delegation.</p>	<p>All registered coaches are required to travel and stay with the area delegation.</p>
<p>SOMI Culminating Events Information – Call – In On the call-in and postmark deadline, the Area Director should call the state office to report the numbers of athletes number of teams, and type of teams (Junior, Senior, Modified, Unified, etc.)</p>	<p>On the call-in and postmark deadline, the Area Director should call, email or fax the state office to report the numbers of athletes number of teams, and type of teams (Junior, Senior, Modified, Unified, etc.) All registration must be processed on the GMS system and emailed to the state office no later than call in day.</p>
<p>SOMI Culminating Events Information – Athlete Alternates It is strongly suggested to list alternate athletes.</p>	<p>It is strongly suggested to list alternate athletes. Alternate athletes must be specific to the sport in which they are training in.</p>
<p>SOMI Culminating Events Information – Prohibition on All-Star Teams With the difficulty in finding fair and equitable competition in divisions where all-star teams are participating, all-start teams will be prohibited from participating in SOMI Culminating Events.</p>	<p>Deleted</p>

2018 Program Guide Updates

<p>Uniform Guidelines – Uniform Numbering</p> <p>For Unified Sports team the athlete should have even number jerseys and the partner will have odd number jerseys.</p>	<p>It is recommended for Unified Sport teams that the athlete should have even number jerseys and the partner will have odd number jerseys.</p>
<p>Registration for State Winter Games and State Summer Games – Athlete Alternates</p> <p>For State Summer Games, 25% of your quota can be registered as alternates. For State winter games, 20% of your athlete quota can be registered as alternates.</p>	<p>For all individual sports 25% of your quota can be registered as alternates.</p> <p>Any individuals registered for doubles without a partner will be automatically placed as an alternate and will only be activated in replacing a drop.</p> <p>Alternate athlete will only replace athlete from the same area.</p>
<p>Criteria for Advancement to Higher Level Competition – Higher-Level Competition</p> <p>Athlete, Unified Partner, and coach expenses to attend National and World Games events are paid by Special Olympics Michigan.</p>	<p>Athlete, Unified Partner, and coach expenses to attend National and World Games events are paid by Special Olympics Michigan local area program.</p>

2018 Roster Size Updates

Change From	Change To
<p>Team Roster Size – Unified Partners are a peer without intellectual disability.</p>	<p>Unified Partners are a peer without intellectual disability.</p> <p>Athletes replace athletes and Unified Partners replace Unified Partners when an alternate has been activated.</p>

2018 General Athletic Updates

Change From	Change To
<p>SOMI-Specific Information, Sport Season: April-June, Honest Effort</p> <p>Any athlete that achieves a final score 20% better than the preliminary score, for the event that they are participating in, shall be subject to disqualification.</p>	<p>Any athlete that achieves a final score 15% better than the preliminary score, for the event that they are participating in, shall be subject to disqualification.</p>

2018 Program Guide Updates

2018 Basketball Updates

Change To	Change From
<p>Team Size</p> <p>Team roster must be the same for District and State Competition. If an alternate is activated at Districts they will still be considered an alternate at the State Event.</p>	<p>Team roster must be the same for District and State Competition. If an alternate is activated at Districts they will be active for the state finals. The person who was deactivated at districts will now become an alternate for States.</p>
<p>General Rules</p> <p>Addition</p>	<p>Full and half court press are allowed.</p>
<p>Event #1 Target Pass #3</p> <p>(See Figure E)</p>	<p>(See Figure C)</p>
<p>Event #3 – Sport Shot</p> <p>(See Figure G)</p>	<p>(See Figure E)</p>

2018 Bowling Updates

Change From	Change To
<p>National Governing Body</p> <p>American Bowling Congress and Women’s International Bowling Congress or YABA.</p>	<p>Federation Internationale Des Quilleurs (FIQ) Rules as well as Tenpin Bowling Association (WTBA) Rules</p>
<p>Doubles and Team Bowling</p> <p>The doubles team handicap is based on 80% of the difference in the team average and 400 scratch.</p>	<p>The doubles team handicap is based on 80% of the difference in the team average and 400 scratch.</p>
<p>Doubles and Team Bowling</p> <p>With ramp doubles or team competition, both the partners need to be registered for ramp bowling.</p>	<p>With ramp doubles or team competition, both the partners need to be registered for ramp bowling. All team members are not required to use the ramps.</p>

2018 Cycling Updates

Change From	Change To
<p>Sport season: June-September</p> <p>Example would be 12 minutes 29 seconds would look like this – 12:29:00</p>	<p>Example would be 12 minutes 29 seconds would look like this – 12:29.00</p>

2018 Program Guide Updates

2018 Golf Updates

Change From	Change To
General Rules Forward tees will be utilized.	All players will utilize the forward tee box.
Level 2 – Unified Sports® Team Play Example: If player A plays from the tee on the odd numbered holes, then player B would play from the tee on the even-numbered holes.	Example: If player A plays from the tee on the odd numbered holes, then player B would play from the tee on the even-numbered holes. Either an athlete or partner may begin the round. Only one ball is in play on a hole.

2018 Horseshoes Updates

Change From	Change To
Horseshoes Will be a One-Day Event Doubles alternates should be listed on one team called your area number alternates (ex: A01 Alternates)	Doubles alternates should be listed on one team called your area number alternates (ex: A01 Alternates). Areas may not combine areas to create teams.

2018 Volleyball Updates

Change From	Change To
Games Scores Traditional best of three sets equal one match, three matches (9 total set scores must be submitted to the state office). Modified – minimum of six total set scores must be submitted.	A match is equal to one full game, therefore three match scores are due to the State Office. Within a match, there are three sets; each set is played to 25 points except the deciding 3 rd or 5 th set, which is played to 15. Traditional division matches will play the best three out of five sets, with the winner being the team who wins three sets. Modified division matches will play the best two out of three sets, with the winner being the team who wins two sets. Match scores, as well as the set scores within those matches, should all be turned in. For Traditional teams, 3 Match Sets are due (minimum of 9 set scores); for Modified teams 3 Match scores are due (minimum of six set scores). See example in book of how to submit scores.

2018 Speed Skating Updates

Change From	Change To
Sport Season: December-February Athletes may enter the 800M ONLY as a 3 rd Event.	Athletes may enter the 800M as one of their two events. The 3000M unified relay may be added as a 3 rd event only.

2018 Program Guide Updates

2018 Alpine Skiing Updates

Change From	Change To
Two Minute Rule	One Minute rule

2018 Snowboarding Updates

Change From	Change To
Event Modifications Events will consist of two timed runs.	Events will consist of two timed runs except for Super G. Super G will be only one timed run.
Course Layout	Gates setup - 1 gate for 1 st and last slalom gate