

SPECIAL OLYMPICS WISCONSIN

2011 - 2012 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 2011 - 2012 Program year. Coaches should review the rules annually in order to become familiar with any changes that have been made.

1. **Terminology Changes.** SOWI is in the process of changing the term "Area" with "Region". As a result, some of the terminology previously used for SOWI competitions will also be changing. Local competitions offered in every Region will be referred to Regional Competitions. Local competitions involving two or more Regions will be referred to as a District Competition, and competitions in between the Regional or District level and the State level will now be referred to as Sectional Competitions.
2. **Speedskating.** Speedskating will no longer be offered as an official SOWI sport beginning with the 2011-2012 program year.
3. **Outdoor Sports Tournament Medical Deadline.** The medical deadline for the Outdoor Sports season has been changed to **June 1st** starting with the 2012 season.
4. **Gymnastics, Tennis, powerlifting competition.** As part of the SOWI strategic plan, criteria have been developed for how sports will be offered within the SOWI system. Individual sports with 20-100 competitors will be offered only one competitive opportunity. For the existing individual sports within the SOWI program, this means that they will no longer compete in Regional or District competition, but will advance directly to the State competition. Athletes will qualify by training for these sports similar to the process used for winter sports. For that reason, beginning with the 2011-2012 program year, **no district competition will be offered in Artistic Gymnastics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Tennis and Powerlifting.** If participation in those sports in the future grows to 100 or more athletes, District competition will be re-added.
5. **Games Fees.** The Plan A and B State Games fees have been increased slightly in response to rising costs of housing and food. See your registration forms for details.
6. **Assisted events.** Assisted events have been added (Regional level only) in Athletics, Aquatics and Bowling for those athletes who would benefit from a competitive experience, but who are not ready for regular competition. Please see your Regional Director of Sports for details.
7. **Athletics – walking events.** The 1500 meter walk has been added to the distance walking events as a test event. It has been added only for competition at the Regional level. The 4x100 walking relay had enough participation during the 2010-2011 program year that it will be added as a state games event for the 2011-2012 program year. Due the fact that a walking relay is now offered, athletes participating in the 3000 meter walk will no longer be allowed to participate in running relays.
8. **Athletics- Turbo Jav.** Athletes who are 15 and under will use the **300 gram** turbo jav. Athletes 16 and over will use the **500 gram** turbo jav.
9. **Special Needs.** The Special needs form has been updated to provide more clarity in the type of Special need that is requested. Special needs related to housing and competition have been separated into separate sections on the form. The form is available in the Forms for Duplication section of the Agency Manager Handbook.

10. **Proposed Rule Changes.** A new form has been developed for submission of rule change proposals. The form is available in the Agency Manager Handbook in the Forms for Duplication section. All rule change proposals are due to the Program office by May 1st annually for consideration for the following program year.
11. **Bocce.** The rules have been updated to reflect the rules changes made during the 2011 Outdoor sports season. Bocce competition will utilize a court with no walls (lines only), and the game times have been shortened. Please see the bocce rules for details.
12. **Flag Football.** Competition rules have been added for Flag Football. SOWI competition in Flag Football will be added for the 2012 fall season. It will operate as its own season and athletes will not have to choose between Flag Football and Bowling or Volleyball (athletes will continue to have to choose either bowling or volleyball competition for the fall season). **Note:** For safety reasons, in order to participate **every flag football team** wishing to participate will be required to have at least one certified coach. More information will be sent out closer to the time of competition. For further information or coaches training, please see your Regional Director of Sports.
13. **Basketball.** Competition in Basketball skills level 2 will be offered starting with the 2011-2012 program year. The events for level 2 have been updated and are not the same events offered in previous years. Please see the basketball rules for details.

DISPOSE OF (RECYCLE OR THROW AWAY) ALL OLD FORMS AND OLD COMPETITION GUIDE INFORMATION. PLEASE USE ONLY 2011 - 2012 SOWI COMPETITION GUIDE FORMS.