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Centralized Accounting Update

The Agency Centralized Accounting plan continues to move forward with 20 Agencies now in-house. We are discovering there is clarification needed on how Agencies raise funds and where these funds are accounted for.

Specifically, if your Agency raises funds in the name of Special Olympics Wisconsin, monies should be accounted for through your SOWI bank account or in-house bank account. If your Agency raises money in the name of your school/YMCA/Arc/etc for the benefit of Special Olympics, the monies would be accounted for through the entity's bank account. Only SOWI bank accounts will be brought in-house.

The Centralized Accounting Frequently Asked Questions and a Centralized Accounting Overview (for you to cut and paste into your Agency newsletters) are available on the SOWI web site under the Agency secure log-on and you may also direct your questions to Mary Hensen at MHensen@specialolympicswisconsin.org or call (608) 442-5666.

Agency Directory and Accreditation Status

Congratulations on being accredited for the new program year! The 2011 Agency Directory is enclosed and includes SOWI staff changes, new board members and, as always, references in the back by Agency type, size and sports offered. New this year, the directory includes a list of all statewide committee members including Law Enforcement Torch Run and Games Management Team members. All Agencies who submitted their registration and accreditation materials are included. If you would like to receive a certificate noting your accreditation and/or a press release sent to your local newspaper, please contact Rachel Grant at rgrant@specialolympicswisconsin.org or (800) 552-1324 ext. 5678.

The Agency surveys you completed regarding training have been compiled, reviewed carefully and coupled with face-to-face surveys of SOWI certified clinicians. The results are enclosed for your review. The survey will serve as the corner post of our new Certified Training School plan to be unveiled in 2011. We would also like to extend a **very big thank you** to all of the Agency managers and coaches who took the time to personally meet with SOWI Director of Training & Competition, Angela Frizzo. Your input and ideas were invaluable and your time and support was greatly appreciated!

The changes you made to your Class A Volunteer Rosters have been entered so please review the enclosed materials to ensure accuracy. Thank you for taking the time to complete these items since your input is always appreciated!

Winter & Indoor Sports Season Reminders

Winter Games

Speed Skating: Due to a scheduling conflict with the ice arena in Wausau, there will be no speed skating competition offered at the 2011 Winter Games.

Snowshoe Racing rule clarifications:

- ◆ When an athlete loses a snowshoe(s) during a race – the snow shoe(s) must be at least partially on when crossing the finish line.
- ◆ “Jossling” can occur on the course similar to non-lane events in track. This is not the protocol for cross country skiing.

Scarf project: Donate a handmade scarf to the 2011 SOWI USA Scarf Project. SOWI hopes to collect 200 scarves for our athletes, coaches, volunteers & supporters to wear at the 2011 State Winter Games as a symbol of unity and compassion. Learn more about this at: <http://www.scarvesforspecialolympics.org/>



Indoor Sports Season

Gymnastic: routines will remain the same as last year.

Basketball:



- ◆ Athletes who are not listed on the roster may not sit on the bench.
- ◆ Check the calendar of events for regional competition sites as some have changed.
- ◆ The athlete roster has expanded back to 12 athletes on a roster in part due to attrition in number of healthy players over three levels of competition.



Looking for Fun Ways to Fund Raise? Check Out the 25% Kick-back for Polar Plunge!

Many Agencies take advantage of participating in one of the 12 **Polar Plunge® winter fundraisers** that take place across the state of Wisconsin. This is a GREAT way to take advantage of a popular fundraiser, make some money for your Agency and have little work to do on your part. We have further clarified the policy regarding the 25% kick-back Agencies can receive and we encourage you to take advantage of this fundraising opportunity! To help make this easier for you, Plungers on your team no longer need to be Class A volunteers for your Agency to receive the 25% kick-back. Please remember that as you put together your Agency's Polar Plunge Team, you must include your Agency number in your team name, for example: "4-02 The Plunging Popsicles". We hope this maximizes the amount of money Agencies can receive as we all work towards the goal of enhancing the athlete experience. Please contact your local Regional Director of Development with any questions.



- 1** The **National Council for Accreditation of Coaching Education (NCACE)** has awarded Special Olympics North America's Coach Education System Level 3 accreditation. SONA's Coach Education System is one of only 17 NCACE accredited programs overall nationally. NCACE only grants accreditation to educational programs that meet or exceed established requirements deemed essential to preparation of well-qualified coaches.
- 2** To date in 2010, **SOWI has offered 53 Certified Training Schools free of charge**, with more than 500 participants and 160 new certifications completed.
- 3** The **new Athlete Leadership Programs (ALPs) brochure is enclosed** and located on the web site.
- 4** **SOWI staff recently returned from the International LETR Conference** with a suitcase full of awards. This year's SOWI LETR events raised \$440,000 more than last year!
- 5**  **Buffalo Wild Wings and Cousins Subs** have increased their status to **regional SOWI plunge partners** for the 2011 partners. 
- 6** Board member Gary Karner, the commissioner of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC), has pitched the Polar Plunge to 5,000 student athletes through the WIAC Student Athletic Association Council (SAAC). The WIAC has become a State Games Partner for SOWI.
- 7** **Greater Milwaukee Area 8 Athlete Input Council** raised \$1766 at their annual Highland House fundraiser and bucket raffle. The AIC donates this money back to the Area to offset the cost of competition.
- 8** **Medfest** was a great success with 98 athletes receiving free medical exams, while 49 of them were brand new to SOWI! Hats off to our Director of Training & Athlete Wellness, Melissa Schoenbrodt, for all of her hard work!
- 9** The site for the **2011 SOWI Leadership Conference** is the Plaza Hotel in Wausau. Remember to save the date: September 24-25, 2011.
- 10** **Two Wisconsin athletes were chosen** to participate in the 2011 World Summer Games as representatives of Team USA. Rebecca Stelpfulg (8-44 Bi-County) will be competing in aquatics and Christopher Mark (7-07 Western Kenosha) will be competing in athletics. Good luck in your training and competition!!

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