



MEMORANDUM

TO: Area Directors, Local Program Coordinators, and Coaches
CC: SOWA Staff
FROM: Joe Hampson, Vice President of Sports and Community Outreach
DATE: March 12, 2017 / **Updated 7/7/2017**
RE: 2018 Special Olympics USA Games Quota Process – Special Olympics Team Washington

2018 Special Olympics USA Games

Team Washington will be comprised of **278 total delegates** from across Washington who will go to the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle, Washington in July 2018.

Special Olympics Washington will have participants from 13 different sports – aquatics, artistic gymnastics, athletics, basketball, bocce, bowling, flag football, golf, powerlifting, soccer 5 aside and 7 aside, softball, stand up paddle boarding, and volleyball.

A complete list of the SOWA quota breakdown is included in this memo.

The 2018 USA Games will take place July 1-8, 2018 in some of the best sports facilities in the greater Seattle region including the University of Washington, Seattle University, Seattle Pacific University, King County Aquatic Center, Willows Run Golf Club, Celebration Park, and Kenmore Lanes.

The USA Games will feature nearly 3,500 athletes competing in 14 Olympic-style sports, with the support of 1,000 coaches, 8,000 volunteers and an estimated 50,000 family, friends and spectators. Non-competitive special events will include the Final Leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run™ that will symbolize the start of the competition and Healthy Athletes, a place where the athletes can get vital health screenings. Youth and education events will also be held in conjunction with the Games as young leaders rally around making change for the better of the Special Olympics movement and promoting acceptance of those with intellectual disabilities. There will also be an Independence Day celebration on July 4th. For more information, go to <https://www.specialolympicsusagames.org>

Expenses

Special Olympics Washington will cover the costs for travel, uniforms and all expenses related to the 2018 USA Games Team Washington experience including training camp (i.e., travel, meals, lodging). There should be no additional financial burdens for local programs which have athletes, teams, or coaches selected from their community.

NOTE: Family members wishing to travel to Seattle to support athletes will not be part of the delegation, which includes housing, and will be expected to cover all of their own expenses. Information about the families program (credentials, access to preferred housing, tickets to ceremonies, etc...) will be shared to those with athletes and unified partners selected.

Advancement to 2018 Special Olympics USA Games Process – Washington Teams & Athletes

- ◆ SOWA Athletes and Teams **will be eligible for consideration** for USA Games advancement by receiving a gold medal (and submitting an application) at the highest level of SOWA competitions held in 2017 per the guidelines in the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules, Article I, Section 13 – Criteria for Advancement. The following competitions will be used to determine those eligible for consideration:
 - Basketball – 2017 State Winter Games
 - Athletics – 2017 State Spring Games
 - Swimming – 2017 State Spring Games
 - Powerlifting – 2017 State Spring Games
 - Soccer – 2017 State Spring Games
 - Bocce – 2017 SOWA State Summer Games
 - Golf – 2017 SOWA State Summer Games
 - Stand Up Paddle Boarding – 2017 State Summer Games
 - Softball – 2017 State Summer Games
 - Bowling – 2017 State Fall Games
 - Artistic Gymnastics – 2017 Fall Invitational
 - Flag Football – 2017 State Fall Games
 - Volleyball – 2017 Fall Invitational

- ◆ A complete list of the SOWA 2018 USA Games Quota is attached below.
- ◆ Individuals and teams receiving a gold medal in a sport being offered will need to submit an application by the establish deadline in this memo. Lists of teams / athletes being considered for selection will be made available shortly after the completion of each season leading up to the 2017 Fall Season. Local Program Coordinators will be asked to review and inform SOWA of any concerns and provide endorsement, recommendation or removal from consideration throughout the process of being considered.
- ◆ **Team Sports Application:** Head Coach submits coach application by ~~July 10, 2017~~ **August 1st** and if accepted, coach submits player applications as well as a team roster together by the submission deadline posted in this memo below. Reminder, teams must have received a gold medal in qualifying event to be eligible. ***Clarifications:** Head Coach may submit all team applications (coach / athlete / partner applications) all together in one submission. **Note:** Replacing the head coach for a team is extremely rare and will only take place due to lack of experience, failed background check, or other risk management situations. **Note:** Fall Team Sports Coaches have until December 11th to submit coach application – volleyball and flag football.
- ◆ Athletes who have submitted an application will be considered for the drawing in all sports in which they qualified to be eligible (occasionally athletes will **earn a gold in multiple sports** that have quota slots). However, each athlete will only be able to be selected in one sport for USA Games. In the unlikely case that an athlete be selected in more than one sport, he/she would be asked to choose a sport and would have their name removed from the other.
- ◆ **Local Program Coordinators and coaches** will review the list of qualified applicants and provide recommendations for the teams and individuals applying from Winter Games (Basketball), Spring Games and Summer Games in the quota related sports.
- ◆ **Fall Games applicants** interested in being on Team Washington will be required to submit applications prior to the competition, assuming they win a gold medal at the Fall Games. Each Fall Games applicant will be reviewed prior to the completion of games on December 10-12, 2017 and eligibility will be submitted for final selection on December 15, 2017.
- ◆ **NO LATE ENTRIES** will be accepted. Applicants will be screened for appropriateness to travel, behavior, ability to be away from home and family for over a week, etc...

Advancement to USA Games Process – Coaches

- ◆ Individual sports coaches (Ex: Swimming) will apply independent of their athletes and may be selected even if none of their local program athletes are selected. Further, coaches are not assured a spot on Team SOWA if one or more of their athletes are selected.
- ◆ Team sports coaches (Ex: Soccer) will apply in addition to their team qualifying and being selected. Coach application to be submitted by deadline below.
- ◆ A selection committee of staff and volunteers from the SOWA Sports Management Team and Board of Directors will conduct interviews to select all 2018 Team Washington coaches.

2018 Special Olympics USA Games Athlete/Team Application & Selection Timeline

- ◆ **Coach, Team and Individual Sport Applications:** Available beginning in March, 2017 for all sports.
- ◆ **July 10, 2017-** Team Washington **Coach Applications** will be due for all sports.
- ◆ **July 2017** –Coach Applications to SOWA Sports Management Team for review. Interviews to be conducted in early/mid August with coach selections made by September 1, 2017.
- ◆ **September 1, 2017:** Team / Individual Applications are due for all Sports except Fall Games qualifiers) list of Athletes eligible for consideration will be distributed to selected Team Washington Head Coaches, Local Programs and Coaches for review. **Team Sports Application Packet:** Head Coach submits player applications as well as a team roster.
- ◆ **October 1, 2017** – List of Screened Athletes approved for drawing due from Local Programs to SOWA Office. Exception of fall sports; volleyball, flag football, gymnastics, bowling – these will be approved after Fall Games. List of teams and athletes will be posted on SOWA website.
- ◆ **December 15, 2017** – SOWA basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, flag football teams selected by **random draw** (if multiple teams are in the selection pool). SOWA athletes in individual sports selected by **weighted draw**.
 - Athletes who have attended a previous World Games or National Games are eligible to advance, but there will be a weighted draw that increases the odds for those who have not attended before.
 - Example:Joey has gone to World Games or National Games 2 times in his SOWA career. Mike has gone once. Sean, Steve and Pedro have all never been.
 - Joey’s name would go in the hat once, Mike’s twice and Sean, Steve and Pedro’s name each would go in 3 times. This is a weighted draw that is proportionate to the number of times that each has previously attended.

For those selected:

- ◆ **January 1, 2018** – Selected athletes, coaches and delegations registration paperwork due to SOWA for submission to 2018 USA Games.
- ◆ **Early May 2018** – Team Washington Training Camp at location in Washington TBA. SOWA covers all costs of training camp related to transportation, lodging and meals.
- ◆ **July 1-8, 2018**– USA Games in Seattle, WA (dates for departure and return may be earlier and later)

2018 Special Olympics USA National Games - TEAM WASHINGTON QUOTA

133 athletes, 79 unified partners, 60 coaches, 6 staff = 278 delegates

**Coach and Staff gender balance for Team Washington will be a factor in selection*

Below is the quota allotment for Special Olympics Washington in the following 13 sports:

Winter Games

Sport: **Basketball** (40 athletes 10 unified partners and 5 coaches)
Quota: 2 adult male* traditional team (age 22 and older)
 1 Adult Unified team (age 22 and older)
 1 Inter-scholastic Unified Schools team
 NOTE: Team can be co-ed, but they will compete in the male division
 Coaches will be selected as part of the team that qualifies. Coaches will need to submit coach application.

Spring Games

Sport: **Athletics** (14 athletes and 4 coaches)
Quota: 1 female - category 1 (50m run, 50m walk, 100m walk, 100m Wheelchair, SB Throw, Stand Long Jump)
 2 female – category 2 (400m walk, 800m walk, shot put)
 2 female - category 3 (100m dash, 200m dash, 400m dash, shot put, long jump, pentathlon)
 1 Female - category 4 (400m Run, 800m Run, 1500m Run, Shot Put, Long Jump, High Jump, Mini Jav)
 1 Female – category 5 (1500m Run, 3000m Run, 5000m Run, 10,000m Run, ½ Marathon)
 1 Male - category 1 (50m run, 50m walk, 100m walk, 100m Wheelchair, SB Throw, Stand Long Jump)
 2 Male – category 2 (400m walk, 800m walk, shot put)
 2 Male - category 3 (100m dash, 200m dash, 400m dash, shot put, long jump, pentathlon)
 1 Male - category 4 (400m Run, 800m Run, 1500m Run, Shot Put, Long Jump, High Jump, Mini Jav)
 1 Male – category 5 (1500m Run, 3000m Run, 5000m Run, 10,000m Run, ½ Marathon)

Sport: **Soccer- 5 aside and 7 aside** (5 teams, 5 Coaches)
Quota: 2 - *5 A-Side Traditional
 2 – *Interscholastic Unified 5 a-side teams
 1 – *7 A-side Unified Age 18 – over
 NOTE: *Team can be co-ed, but they will compete in the male division
 Coaches will be selected as part of the team that qualifies.

Sport: **Swimming** (12 athletes, 3 coaches)
Quota: 2 male athlete – Category 1 (25 Freestyle, 25 backstroke, 4x25 relay, 4x25 medley relay)
 2 female Athlete – Category 1 (25 Freestyle, 25 backstroke, 4x25 relay, 4x25 medley relay)
 2 male athlete – Category 2 (25 butterfly, 25 back, 25 BS, 50 butterfly, 50 BS, 50 free, 50 back, 100 free)
 2 female athlete – Category 2 (25 butterfly, 25 back, 25 BS, 50 butterfly, 50 BS, 50 free, 50 back, 100 free)
 2 male athlete – Category 3 (100 free, 100 back, 100 BF, 100 BS, 100 IM, 200 IM, 200 BS, 200 BS, 200 BF, 200 Free, 400 Free, 400 IM, 800 Free)
 2 female – Female Athlete – Category 3 (100 free, 100 back, 100 BF, 100 BS, 100 IM, 200 IM, 200 BS, 200 BS, 200 BF, 200 Free, 400 Free, 400 IM, 800 Free)

Sport: **Powerlifting** (4 athletes and 1 coach)
Quota: 2 male Athletes (Bench, Deadlift, Squat, Combination Bench and Dead, Combination bench, deadlift and squat)
 2 female Athletes

Summer Games

Sport: **Softball** (25 athletes 7 unified partners and 4 coaches)
Quota: 1 Traditional Male team – age 22 and above
 1 Unified Team – age 22 and above
 NOTE: Team can be co-ed, but they will compete in the male division
 Coaches will be selected as part of the team that qualifies.

Sport: **Stand-up Paddle Boarding** (5 total athletes)
Quota: 3 female athletes – age 16 and above
 2 male athletes – age 16 and above

Sport: **Bocce Ball** (3 male and 3 female athletes & 2 unified partners (1 male and 1 female) - 2 coaches)
Quota: 1 female bocce doubles team – (both must be female)
 1 male bocce doubles team (can have one male and one female on this team)
 1 male Unified bocce doubles team
 1 female Unified bocce doubles team

Sport: **Golf** (5 athletes – 1 coach)
Quota: 1 female – Level 4
 1 male – Level 4
 1 male – Level 5
 1 female – Level 5
 1 – Male High Performance

Sport: **Tennis** (2 athletes – 1 coach)
Quota: 1 female
 1 male

Fall Games

Sport: **Artistic Gymnastics** (5 female athletes and 1 coaches)
Quota: 2 female – Artistic Level 1
 2 female - Artistic Level 2
 1 female - Artistic Level 4

Sport: **Flag Football** (15 total athletes & 5 total partners and 4 coaches)
Quota: 1 Interscholastic Unified Flag Football Team
 1 Traditional Male (mixed ok) Flag Football Team
 NOTE: Team can be co-ed, but they will compete in the male division
 Coaches will be selected as part of the team that qualifies.

Sport: **Bowling** (5 athletes, 1 coach)
Quota: 2 - male athletes
 2 - female athletes
 1 – High performance Male Athlete – Athlete to be selected from top male or female division at Fall Games.

Sport: **Volleyball** (12 athletes, 2 coach)
Quota: 1 – Traditional Volleyball Team
 NOTE: Team can be co-ed, but they will compete in the male division
 Coaches will be selected as part of the team that qualifies.