

Dear Special Olympics Colorado Athletes, Coaches, Volunteers and Family Members:

As we look to continuously improve, update and streamline our services we have made some exciting updates to our programs for 2012. We appreciate all of the input and suggestions from our athletes, coaches, volunteers and family members who, together, help us to make these much needed improvements.

- **Coaches Certifications:** In order to improve the overall athlete experience as well as monitor safety, rules and structure, we have implemented a mandatory Coaches Training for all active coaches within Special Olympics Colorado. Starting in 2012, any team who registers for an event (area or state) will need to have a Certified Coach on the roster. The requirements to become certified can be found on our website at www.specialolympicsco.org. In addition, all coaches will be given 1 year from the time of they begin coaching with us to complete certification. You only need to be certified at the Level I certification in order to register a team. Also, if you have been coaching with us for 5 or more years, you may become certified by simply completing the recertification process. For more information, please contact Jenny Chase at jc@specialolympicsco.org.
- **Seasonal Deadlines:** It seems that one of the biggest obstacles we encounter as coaches and staff every season is the tracking down of all of the necessary paperwork in order to compete – whether that is the Class A forms for volunteers or medical forms for athletes. In an effort to help the registration process and eliminate the stress of last-minute paperwork, we have decided to implement seasonal deadlines. These deadlines are set for 2 weeks prior to the FIRST area competition of the season. ALL paperwork must be turned in by this date in order to compete that season. Similar to rec leagues and school leagues, if you miss the deadline, you will have to wait to participate until the next season. The following are the dates for 2012:

<u>Season</u>	<u>FIRST AREA EVENT</u>	<u>STATE EVENT</u>	<u>SEASONAL DEADLINE</u>
Winter	2/4	Winter Games- 3/3	1/20
Basketball	2/12	Basketball- 3/17	1/27
Spring	4/11	Summer Games- 6/2	3/30
Summer	7/9	Summer Classic - 8/11	6/29
Flag Football	9/29	Flag Football - 10/?	9/14
Fall	10/6	Fall Classic - 11/10	9/21

As SOCO staff, we are committed to providing you with all of the necessary reports at the start of the season and throughout the year so that it is easy for our coaches to know who needs their paperwork. As coaches, we hope you will respect these deadlines and commit to following them. For more information, please contact Chaka Sutton at css@specialolympicsco.org.

- **Volunteer Process:** We have revamped our volunteer processes!! We have eliminated the Class B volunteer form and now all of our day-of event volunteers will simply have to go to our website and fill out an on-line registration form for the events they would like to volunteer for. We have also added a Class A RENEWAL form for all of our current Class A volunteers for ease of use. All of these forms can be found on our website at www.specialolympicsco.org. For more information, please contact Kady Moore at kbm@specialolympicsco.org.

Thank you all once again for your continued support of Special Olympics Colorado and for your dedication in making this a truly remarkable sports organization! We can't tell you how much we appreciate your time, your passion, your input, and your desire to serve our athletes!

Thank you,

Special Olympics Colorado Staff