



SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA & NEVADA 2010 Program Plan and Priorities

As we head into 2010, we find that our belt-tightening and resourcefulness has put us in position where we can continue to provide top-quality programs to every interested athlete in Northern California and Nevada. Our programs continue to experience growth as more families are discovering the important role Special Olympics plays in the development of their children's bodies and minds.

But, we still have a lot of work to do. Our operating plan is always based on the contributions and revenue we expect, and we have experienced a significant shortfall of revenue from some of our income streams. While we are optimistic that we can replace some lost funds through the formula that has served us so well – individual to individual and dollar for dollar grassroots fundraising, we have a responsibility to continue to diligently manage our resources.

On the bright side, we could not have done this without you. Your input and feedback was important to our planning process, as we sought to design programs that will allow us to serve the largest number of athletes without sacrificing the quality of training and competition. Thank you to the coaches, volunteers, parents and family members who participated in “*Designing our Future*” survey last year and let us know about those most valued services and benefits provided by Special Olympics Northern California and Nevada.

As we move forward to manage limited resources while providing high value services and benefits, we made some decisions that will allow us to focus on service and athletes and stabilize the program for the future.

For 2010, our plan includes the following:

- **All sports will be offered in four distinct sports seasons (winter, spring, summer and fall).** Off-season sports training will not be offered so that resources can be focused on the majority of athletes who are training for a sport offered during that particular season.
- **Most regional competitions will be one day, instead of the usual two days.** This will reduce costs in facility fees, lodging and meals. Teams will continue to compete in at least two or three games during the competitions. Local programs will have more opportunities for invitational competitions and scrimmages.
- **Summer Games competition will continue to be a two-day competition for aquatics, bocce, tennis and track & field.**
- **New multi-sport team uniforms will be purchased for all athletes as needed.** These uniforms will be provided in the same color schemes complete with county name, and will be used for all team sports.
- **Create a plan to bring back alpine and cross country skiing.** Starting in 2010 and continuing through the 2012 ski season, Alpine and Cross country skiing will be offered at



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certain levels of participation. In 2010, we will continue the Fresno County Winter Sports Program as it hosts the largest number of participants and add back the program in areas such as South Lake Tahoe where the programs have easy access to the snow. In mid 2010, we will then create the plan for 2011 and beyond.

- **Continue to focus our resources on sports that have the highest amount of participation** by adding back to those sports aspects as listed above. We also will eliminate the sports of gymnastics and roller skating due to low number of participants across the program. Finally, we will introduce a new plan for long distance running to be part of the Summer Games Season and the track and field venue.

These changes are necessary to control costs and deliver services to a growing number of Special Olympics athletes. Each year brings new challenges, but together we need to keep our eye on the ball and the end goal in mind as we tell our story, look for ways to innovate and stay true to our mission.

Sincerely yours,

Richard E. Collett
President & CEO
Special Olympics Northern California/Nevada