



Special Olympics
Northern California

Special Olympics Northern California Shop Talk

Below is the April issue of the Shop Talk, our newsletter for our coaches and volunteers. You can tell we are in full swing with our Spring sports season as there are lots of things going on! In this issue you will find:

- Athlete Medicals
- Basketball Championships
- Upcoming Regional Competition Updates
 - Aquatics Updates
 - Bocce Updates
 - Gymnastics Updates
 - Tennis Updates
 - Track & Field Updates
 - Volleyball Updates
- Summer Games Update
 - Registration Information
 - Turning Back Summer Games Allotments
 - Durham Transportation Information
 - Head of Delegation Information
 - Summer Games Family Housing
 - Summer Games Family Reception
- Upcoming Sports
- Spread the Word

Athlete Medicals

With so many sports currently going on it is hard to keep track of athlete medicals. But if an athlete shows up for practice and you know they do NOT have a current medical on file, you absolutely cannot let them practice. There is only one requirement for an athlete to participate in Special Olympics and that is completing the Application for Participation in Special Olympics form (commonly referred to as the athlete medical). At the beginning of your practice season, check the medical expiration date to find out if an athlete's medical will expire during the sport season. If so, hand them a blank form and let them know to get it completed. If an athlete shows up and they don't have a medical on file or it is expired, hand the athlete a blank medical and let them know that they can start practice when it is completed. We know for some it is not easy for some of our athletes to get the medical signed by a licensed medical profession, but our Insurance Provider requires that all athletes who participate must have a current medical on file. If you have a parent or care provider who gets upset with you because you won't let their athlete participate, please feel free to refer them to Donna Romero, Vice President Family & Field Services, 925-944-8801 ext. 215.

Basketball Championships

Congratulations to all the Basketball teams who competed at the Basketball Championships in Stockton on Sunday. Final results will be available soon. If you would like a copy, please email donna@sonc.org and I send them to you as soon as they are available. Thank you to the wonderful volunteers and GMT who made such a positive competition experience possible for our athletes!

Upcoming Regional Competition Updates

✓ **Aquatics**

- The Butte County Competition takes place May 3rd in Butte at the at Didwell Jr. College – registration is closed
- The Central Valley Competition takes place May 3rd in Fresno at Clovis High School – registration is closed
- The East Bay Competition takes place on May 18th in Oakland at Laney College – registration is closed
- The Northeast Competition takes place on May 3rd in Roseville at the Roseville Aquatics center – registration is closed
- The Northcoast Competition takes place on May 4th in Novato at the College of Marin – registration is closed
- The Silicon Valley Competition takes place on May 10th in San Jose at Gunderson High School – registration is closed.

✓ **Bocce**

There is no Northcoast Regional competition taking place this year. All athletes who participated in the Northcoast competition last year will be participating in the East Bay Regional competition

- The East Bay Competition takes place on May 17th in Martinez at Martinez Waterfront Park – registration is closed
- The Northeast Competition takes place on May 4th in Lincoln at the Sun City Lincoln Hills Bocce Courts – registration is closed

✓ **Gymnastics**

Gymnastics is unique in that the competitions are handled the same as our rollerskating competitions. The Regional Competition is considered the highest level of competition and is considered the Championships.

- The Northcoast Competition takes place on May 18th in San Rafael at Mega Gymnastics – registration is currently being accepted.

✓ **Tennis**

There are two regional competition opportunities for tennis. Athletes who want to qualify for consideration for Summer Games must attend one of the two regional competitions.

- The Silicon Valley Competition takes place on May 10th in San Jose at Gunderson High School – registration is closed
- The Northcoast Competition takes place on May 17th in Kentfield at the College of Marin – registration is being accepted

✓ **Track & Field**

- The East Bay Competition takes place on May 3rd in Pleasanton at Amador High School – registration is closed
- The Northeast Competition takes place on May 17th in Rancho Cordova at Cordova High School – registration is being accepted
- The Northcoast Competition takes place on May 17th in Kentfield at the College of Marin – registration is being accepted
- The Merced Volunteer Regional Competition takes place on May 10th in Merced at the Merced Jr. College

- The Silicon Valley Competition takes place on May 10th in San Jose at Gunderson High School – registration is closed.
 - Congratulations to all the Volunteer area programs who recently hosted or will host their own regional track and field competitions – Kings County, Tulare County, Stanislaus County, and Tehama County. These Volunteer areas hosts approximately 200 athletes (or more), just from within their own county!
- ✓ **Volleyball**
- There is only one Regional Volleyball competition. All athletes who want to qualify for advancement to Summer Games must participate in this competition. Housing for any team traveling more than 90 miles is being provided at the Hampton Inn in Livermore. Only teams will have the opportunity to advance to Summer Games. The highest level of competition for skills athletes will be the regional competition.
- The East Bay Competition takes place on May 3rd in Pleasanton at Amador High School – registration is closed

Summer Games

Well with such a flurry of regional competitions coming up you know Summer Games can't be far behind. Summer Games will take place the weekend of June 6th. Aquatics, Tennis, Track & Field and Volleyball will compete on the Cal Berkeley Campus. Bocce will compete at the Martinez Waterfront bocce courts in Martinez. All delegations will be housed in the dorms on Cal Berkeley. Bocce teams will be bused back and forth to the competition site. Over 900 athletes are expected to compete. The festivities kickoff with our Opening Ceremony on Friday evening, including our traditional parade of athletes, our Wall of Honor consisting of Law Enforcement personal, live entertainment, and will conclude with the lighting of the Special Olympics caldron signaling the beginning of the games.

- ✓ The registration packet for Summer Games will be going out next week. It will have lots of very important information in it so please read it all very carefully.
- ✓ Turning Back Summer Games Slots – If you find out that one of your athletes can't attend Summer Games because of a conflict, PLEASE turn the slot(s) back in to your Area Director or Regional Sports Manager as quickly as possible.
- ✓ Durham Transportation Requests – by now, everyone who wants to use Durham transportation to and from the Games has turned in the Durham transportation request form. The window for pick-ups is much earlier than in years past because Durham is still transporting school students. For the most part pick-ups will be arranged between 10:00 am and 12 noon so coaches and athletes should plan on taking Friday off if Durham is being utilized.
- ✓ Head of Delegation (HOD) Meeting – there will be head of delegation meeting on Thursday evening, June 5th. It is very important that all HODs attend the meeting. There will be lots of information to discuss and dorm keys will be issued at that time. Dinner will be provided and housing will be in the dorms. A walk-through of the venues will take place on Friday morning. With many delegations arriving early on Friday, things will become hectic much earlier on Friday than is typical. For those areas who aren't able to attend the HOD meeting, you will need to watch for future Summer Games updates on where to pick up room keys.
- ✓ Summer Games Family Housing – For families who will be attending the Summer Games to cheer for their athletes, Family Housing has been secured at the Double Tree Berkeley Marina

with a rate of \$102 per night including a hot breakfast. Reservations are now being accepted by calling 510-548-7920. Please distribute the flyer below to your families. Information about the Family housing will also be included in the Family Times. The Double Tree will also be the site of our Family Reception.

- ✓ Summer Games Family Reception – We will once again host a Family Reception for our families who are attending the Summer Games. The Reception will take place on Saturday evening at the Double Tree Hotel. Families do not need to be staying at the Double Tree in order to attend. Only families who are registered with our Family Program are invited to attend. The Family Reception invite will be included with the Family Times. In case you have families who would like to register for the Family Program, attached please find the Family Registration form.

Upcoming Sports

Next sports coming up are golf and softball!

Spread the Word

If you know of a coach or volunteer who would like to receive “The Shop Talk” please send their email address to donna@sonc.org! It’s all about communication!

See next page for Family Housing Flyer and Family Registration Form.



DOUBLETREE®

HOTELS•SUITES•RESORTS•CLUBS



Special Olympics

Northern California

FAMILY HOUSING INFORMATION

WHERE: Double Tree Berkeley Marina
200 Marina Blvd.
BERKELEY, CA 94710

ROOM RATE: \$102.00 per Night (includes
breakfast!)

HOW TO RESERVE: Call **510-548-7920** and
say you are with the Special
Olympics Group

Amenities:

- On-site Restaurant
- Coffee makers in room
- Hair dryer in room
- Fitness Center
- Outdoor Pool
- Close to Cal Berkeley



Tell a Friend!



Special Olympics
Northern California & Nevada

Please return to:
Donna Romero, Special Olympics
3480 Buskirk Ave., #340
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Family Registration

Tell us about You

Your Name: _____ Email: _____

Your Address: _____ Day Phone: _____

_____ Evening Phone: _____

Where do you Work or go to School: _____

Address: _____
(Street)

_____ (City, State, Zip)

What is your relationship to your Athlete:

Grandparent Parent Sibling Aunt Uncle Care Provider

Other: _____

_____ I am interested in becoming a volunteer. Please send me information

_____ I am interested in becoming a coach. Please send me information

Tell us about your Athlete

Athlete Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: M F

Address: _____ Day Phone: _____
(If different than yours) (Street)

_____ Evening Phone: _____
(City, State, Zip)

Where does your Athlete work or go to School: _____

Address: _____
(Street)

Does your athlete reside: At home In a group home setting On their own

Do you know a family who has not completed a Family Registration Form? If so, please complete the following so we can send them some information:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____
Street City State/Zip Code

This family has a potential Special Olympics athlete who is not yet involved in Special Olympics.

This family has an athlete involved in Special Olympics. Athlete Name: _____