



January 5, 2010

Dear Special Education Teachers and Teachers :

I would like to extend an invitation to your Special Education students to participate in the 2010 Special Olympics Washington Tri-Cities Track & Field Meet on May 11, 2010, at Southridge High School, Kennewick, WA. The Tri-Cities Track & Field Meet is a perfect opportunity for your students and their families to see what Special Olympics has to offer to them. This year, teachers and coaches will need to request verification and copies of forms earlier, since it will take the staff longer to verify status of forms, pull forms and get them into the mail to you, since our change in our work environment with the office being closed here in Kennewick, WA.

Persons with intellectual disabilities, regardless of ability level, may participate in sports and other programs offered by Special Olympics. Individuals are eligible for training and competition at age eight, and there is no upper age limit. There are no costs for individuals to participate in Special Olympics. Through Special Olympics individuals with intellectual disabilities socialize, learn skills, and compete against individuals of the same ability level and age.

In order for your students to participate in the Tri-Cities Track & Field Meet on May 11th, they must have a current Application for Participation form on file at our office (original copy must be sent to our office). I have enclosed an Application for Participation form for you to make copies of and to send home with your students. Applications for Participation forms are valid for three years. If you would like to verify if we have current Application for Participation forms on file for your students, please email a list of your students to Marisue Harves at mharves@sowa.org.

Enclosed you will find the required registration paperwork for the Tri-Cities Track & Field Meet. Please take a few minutes to review the following information, attachments and/or enclosures:

- 1) Tri-Cities Track & Field Meet Checklist
- 2) Tri-Cities Track & Field Meet Due Dates & Contacts



- 3) Tri-Cities Track & Field Meet Rules & Events
- 4) Tri-Cities Track & Field Meet General and Event Schedules
- 5) Registration Paperwork:
 - a. Preseason registration form is due **March 26, 2010**. Please make sure that you write down who (student) is going to carry the torch for your school/team during Opening Ceremonies.
 - b. Final registration packet: team cover sheet, individual sports entry roster, current copies of all athletes' Application for Participation forms are due **April 27, 2010**
- 6) To better acquaint yourself with Special Olympics Washington, you may go online to participate in the General Orientation training and Protective Behaviors training at www.sowa.org. Once you are on the SOWA website click on the coaches tab. Next, click on coaches' education tab. You will see the General Orientation and Protective Behaviors presentation in the middle of the screen. Use your arrow keys on your keyboard to guide you through the presentations.

Reminders:

- 1) All Tri-Cities Track & Field Meet information will be posted on our website: www.sowa.org. All forms are available on the web page.

Please remember to distribute information to all of your students and their family members. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support of Special Olympics Washington.

Sincerely,

Jill Ives

Sports, Competition & Training Manager

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Special Olympics
Washington

Motivate. Inspire. Succeed.

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