

# Special Olympics Iowa Program Report

**February 6, 2019**

In the September Board and Staff Retreat there was discussion on how we are doing in Program in regard to athlete recruitment and participation in our program events. We track these numbers and the data from 2015-2018 program events, Class A credentials, our current delegations/new athletes and coaches trainings are included in this report. Our total count for program events in 2018 was 115 events.

The breakdown of our current delegations shows that we have 234 school delegations, 134 facility/community group delegations and 90 independent delegations, which are primarily one athlete delegations, for a total of 458 current delegations.

3 of our 11 Areas (North, Northeast and Southwest) have created new Management Teams since 2017. Erin Birkenholtz has formed a Management Team in East Central as well but we have not found an individual to lead that team at this time. We feel confident that we will be able to transition Management Teams to the remaining areas with veteran leadership as those individual reach retirement age.

We continue to streamline the process of training Coaches (online certifications) and the registration process for Delegation Managers and so that we can create better efficiency for the Delegation Managers and the State Office.

Wendy Olinger is expanding the Global Messenger, Young Athlete Play Day and the Challenge Day programs with additional events. She is also working hard to expand the opportunities for our athletes to take advantage of free health screening through the Healthy Athlete program.

We continue to expand the Unified Sport and Unified Champion School program and the addition of Lexxi O'Brien will help with the work load for Bryan Coffey. The growth in the Des Moines Public Schools Unified Champion Schools program, through Bryan's leadership, is gaining momentum. The processing of these new delegations is being handled well by Sally Briggs, Christine Albers and Tanner Nissen. We do hope that these new Unified Champion Schools will take advantage of the opportunities to participate in our existing Area and State competitions.

The State and Conference events have shown steady growth and we have staged more regional competitions to reduce transportation costs for our delegations that compete in team sports. Rhonda Schwarzkopf does a wonderful job in directing all these State competitions and Tanner Nissen's work with the Games Management System has been a huge part of the smooth operation of those events. Elin Phipps has transformed the "Volunteer" page on the website which has made the process of volunteering much easier.

Overall we are seeing steady participation growth through program and if we have any issue it would be working the schedule so that we don't have multiple events on individual days.

