

I N S P I R E
G R E A T N E S S



MEMO

To: SOMA Coaches
Section Directors
Area Managers
From: SOMA Program Staff
Re: **Team Sport Age Groups**

The President's Advisory Committee on Sports is a standing committee that meets when needed to review pertinent training and competitions issue. The committee is a representative body comprised of coaches, athletes, family members, volunteers, sports directors, staff, etc. The President's Advisory Committee makes recommendations to Bob Johnson, Special Olympics Massachusetts President & CEO for review, and to present to the Special Olympics Massachusetts Board of Directors. The last issue to be addressed by this committee was *How flexible Competition Directors should be while divisioning athletes regarding Gender, Age Groups, and Ability*.

The Advisory Committee approved the following age groups for team sports:

- 12 & under (8-12) - JUNIORS 8-12
- 15 & under (8-15) - JUNIORS 15 & UNDER
- 13-21 - SENIORS
- 22 & older - MASTERS

The following age groups for individual sports have not changed:

- 8-11 - JUNIORS 8-11
- 12-15 - JUNIORS 12-15
- 16-21 - SENIORS
- 22-29 - MASTERS (22-29)
- 30+ - MASTERS (30+)

Please make every effort to comprise your teams this year within these new age groups. Fellow Special Olympics Coaches like you created these guidelines in part to make your life as a Coach easier and more enjoyable. But more importantly, these new guidelines are intended to create more fair, equitable, and safer competition for your athletes. We hope that there are enough teams to create competitive divisions within each age group. *However, divisions will be created, as usual, based on the volume of teams per age group as of Final Registration.*

Have a great season!!!