



SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTH AMERICA'S COACHING EDUCATION PROGRAM AWARDED ACCREDITATION

October 5, 2010/ RESTON, VIRGINIA - The National Council for Accreditation of Coaching Education (NCACE) has awarded Special Olympics North America's Coach Education System Level 3 accreditation. SONA's Coach Education System is one of only 17 NCACE accredited programs overall nationally.

NCACE grants accreditation to educational programs that meet or exceed established requirements deemed essential to preparation of well-qualified coaches. SONA has successfully documented content identified in the *National Standards for Sport Coaches* and the *NCACE Guidelines* for program supervision, personnel, and operations as well as received some of the highest scores in these areas.

"NCACE is pleased to have worked with SONA on the re-accreditation of their Coach Education System. We are especially thrilled, since Special Olympics was the inaugural coaching education program to be accredited by NCACE back in 2001 at level 2. Today, this re-accreditation at level 3 is a testament to the Special Olympics leadership who believes accrediting their coaching education program is part of delivering quality sports experiences. SONA has shown that it is a leader among leaders. Its coaching education program will serve as a prototype for other organizations seeking to promote excellence in coaching preparation. This, in turn, will play a major role in ensuring positive, healthy, and enjoyable sport experiences for all athletes," stated Christopher Hickey, NCACE executive director.

"SONA and its 102,000 coaches are honored to receive the NCACE Level 3 accreditation," said Bob Gobrecht, managing director, Special Olympics North America. "This recognition reinforces the quality of our program, coaching excellence and the high-level of resources each coach receives in order to enhance each athlete's sport experiences."

About Special Olympics

Special Olympics is an international organization that changes lives by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, promoting acceptance for all, and fostering communities of understanding and respect worldwide. Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics movement has grown from a few hundred athletes to nearly 3.5 million athletes in over 180 countries in all regions of the world, providing year-round sports training, athletic competition and other related programs. Special Olympics events now takes place every day, changing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities in places like China and from regions like the Middle East to the community playgrounds and ball fields in every small neighborhood's backyard. Special Olympics provides people with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to realize their potential, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy and friendship. For more information, visit Special Olympics at www.specialolympics.org.

About The National Council for Accreditation of Coaching Education (NCACE)

The National Council for Accreditation of Coaching Education (NCACE) is an organization established by the coaching education community across the U.S. Representatives include members from the single-sport, multi-sport, science/medical/educational fields, and colleges and universities concerned about the availability and quality of coaching education at all levels of sport. NCACE is a not-for-profit organization comprised of organizations and individuals involved in or supporting coaching and coaching education. NCACE supports, facilitates development of, and accredits coaching education programs and established program standards to conduct the program review for organizations seeking to provide effective coaching education programs at all levels. For more information, visit www.NCACEinfo.org or contact NCACE at 1-800-213-7193, ext. 393.

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