**NIT Guidelines:**

1.What are the attendance requirements? Should attendance at practice and code of conduct be considered for an NIT?

YES - Use same standards used for advancement to State Games. (take into account special circumstances – death in the family, illness)

2.What consideration should be taken for an athlete who has participated in other special events? If an athlete went to a NIT in another sport should they be ineligible for a NIT being requested even if it's a different sport? Year by year basis or longer time period required to have not participated in any NIT to be considered for another NIT?

**As a general rule, it should be one NIT per year (budget, rolling or 12 mos consecutive).**Exception: if it's a team sport, that athlete should be included, and team should still qualify. Should try to qualify different athletes whenever possible. Provided this same athlete is not taking another slot, we could deny funding for this athlete who has been to one or more NITs and require they pay their own way.

3. Should the selection be on a lottery basis or based on skill level? Should that decision be up to the Coach?

A - If this is a pre-qualifier from States to SO, NIT to World - then it should be competitive, If for fun, give those who don't excel an opportunity to do something special. Be sure the athlete wants to attend and not just the parent! Use the lottery system if there are several athletes interested. The Coach and sports coordinators should have discretion to accept or reject an athlete. Sometimes we are told the skill level or gender of athletes we must take. If not specified, we should try to take all levels if there are athletes at each level who are interested.

4. Should we limit how many NIT's a sport can request money for per season? 1 per season? Yes. One per year (budget, rolling or 12 mos consecutive). If they want money from the 10K NIT budget (or amount approved by Council).  Any sport that wants to attend an NIT that is not a pre-qualifier, does not qualify for the 10k NIT budget, and/or they request this every year will have to raise the money first and should still be limited to no more than 30% (Area’s approved quota %).

5.  Quota number includes max budget requested. If we approve the NIT submission, we are approving the budget as submitted. We will not go back and determine the budget later. Yes, but allow some wiggle room if new info/circumstances come to light after the initial request is made.

 6. Should there be a max number of attendees allowed for each sport to an NIT? If so, how do we determine that number? For example, Golf has 50+. What's a reasonable number of athletes to go if the NIT hasn't specified the number they are inviting? Yes there should be a limit. No more than we would allow to go to States, and it also depends on funding and who is paying for it. Should be up to the budget to determine (maximize the number of participants, within the budget).

7.  If NIT opportunity comes to a coach, they need to submit the info to their Sport Coordinator for informational purposes and initial approval. Yes

8.  Sport Coordinator provides NIT info and list of prospective athlete names to the Season Director before inviting an athlete so that they can be vetted prior to saying anything to the athlete. Season Director - Once the coach determines interest and it has been approved by both Season Directors or Council if above $2000, the athletes are approached as appropriate to determine who will participate. Once an athlete has indicated an interest and the coach has determined that the athlete meets the criteria (attendance, medical, etc.) the coach submits the list of potential candidates. Once SOVA has given us our quota, then the athletes are selected.

9.  Who has final say on approval of NIT? Sport Director or NIT Committee? Be clear on the authority of who is giving final approval for the NIT request.

Council approves anything over $2K. Both Season Directors must approve up to $2K

10.  Who notifies the Sport about NIT Approval/Denial and how? Phone call, Paperwork (form signed off?) The Season Director will notify the Sport Coordinator.

11.  The Director or Sport Coordinator has the right to deny specific athlete attendance based on knowledge that will be shared with the appropriate parties. Yes, but in conjunction with the coach as they have direct contact with the athletes and volunteers in question. Details of the denial may not be fully disclosed if the coach was not originally involved. We cannot necessarily presume the coach or volunteers are completely aware of the circumstances.

12.  SOVA/Area 26 only pays for the athlete and chaperone/coach. Additional attendees pay all of their own expenses. Yes

13.  Transportation/Gas expenses: Will be reviewed on a case by case basis - general rule that driving expenses will NOT be covered. Towing, breakdowns and other unforeseen expenses will be the responsibility of the driver. All drivers are required to be Class Volunteers A when driving athletes that are not related to and must have adequate automobile insurance. Must follow SOVA/SOI procedures. Yes

14.  Meals are per diem, no alcohol will be reimbursed. Meals are included in the registration. Meals en route are the responsibility of the athlete/parent/volunteer

15.  What fundraising requirements should be established?

It depends on the type of the NIT. Events that occur annually where the Area program participates on a regular basis should be planned for in the sport budget just like regular events such as State Games. If the event is unique or unplanned, the Council should be approached to see if some funds can be allocated for participation. The Council may ask the sport to help supplement the cost.

The sport makes an annual attempt to raise funds in general for Area 26 and/or engages in a special fundraiser for the particular NIT they seek to attend (depending on the cost of the NIT, they might be required to do a special fundraiser, even if they hold an annual fundraiser in support of Area 26). The history of and magnitude of the sport’s efforts to raise funds for Area 26, should be a factor the committee takes into account when deciding whether to grant a request.  

Fundraiser needs to be organized and planned with rough idea of amount of money expected to be raised.

16.  Any behavioral incidents occurring as part of the NIT trip need to be documented and given to the Sport Coordinator and Sport Director for documentation and any necessary action. Follow SOVA policy. We must have documentation and appropriate action must be taken

18. Should a Sport be granted the amount requested as long as they have exceeded that amount in their fundraising efforts? If not, what is the explanation we will give a Sport if we deny their request or lower the amount requested as long as the other guidelines are met? If they fundraised for that specific event and exceeded it, they should receive the requested funding. Remaining funds will be added to the General Fund.

19.  Must fundraising dollars be received prior to requesting funds for an NIT? Or, can a fundraiser be set up to occur after the NIT event as long as a reasonable assurance can be given to the amount expected to be raised? Yes, unless the sport has a history of running a successful fundraiser (GOLF)...then you must fundraise first. Exception: Sometimes the NIT request comes in late and there isn't time to organize an event or due to the postponement of the fundraiser the money might have to come in later. If fundraising dollars are not received prior, the sport needs to provide details of the planned fundraising effort and the amount of money they expect to raise.

20.  Should we consider giving each Sport a set budget each year at a specified amount for them to use for any NIT's that may come available for a given season. If they don't use the money, they don't get to add it to another year. If so, what would the amount be that we would allow for each Sport's NIT budget?

A - No