



Position: Coach

Description: The Special Olympics coach is responsible for providing athletes with comprehensive sports training and preparation for local, state, national, and regional level competition.

Responsibilities:

1. To select, assess and train Special Olympics athletes.

Athlete selection: Recruit athletes and properly complete and submit all required medical and registration materials by established deadlines.

Assessment: Assess each athlete to determine the individual and/or team skill level for training and competition in selected sports.

Training: Develop individualized training programs for each athlete. The program must include instruction in fundamental skills, conditioning, competition, and rules. The training program should be a minimum of eight weeks.

2. To know and understand the sport being coached and abide by [the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules & the National Governing Body \(NBG\) Rules of the sport.](#)

3. Be certified in the sport and is responsible for completing a Training Program for the season.

4. Assigns duties to coaches, Assistant Coaches, Training Assistants and Team Managers. Ensuring that each coach receives the Sport Information Guide, practice schedule, rules, etc.

5. To execute the legal duties of a coach:

- Provide proper planning for each step of training and competition.
- Provide and maintain a safe and secure physical environment.
- Ensure appropriate sport skills instruction and safe competition.
- Match athletes according to strength, size, and ability.
- Continually assess each athlete for participation in appropriate activities within, not challenged beyond, his or her abilities and capabilities.
- Inform athletes of inherent risks associated with a specific sport.
- Ensure acceptable supervision and maintain an adequate 3:1 volunteer-to-athlete ratio.
- Establish an emergency action plan that includes procedures for emergency medical support, postponements or cancellations, crisis communication, and incident/accident reporting.
- Provide appropriate medical support at all times.
- Maintain accurate records including but not limited to having updated athlete medical and release forms on site during practices.