

Coach/Chaperone Responsibilities

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**Special
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Illinois



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1. A coach/chaperone must have an approved Class A Volunteer Registration Form on file and complete the Protective Behaviors and Concussion Awareness trainings prior to assuming any coaching or chaperoning activities. Special Olympics Illinois does not recognize any agency volunteers or employees prior to approval of the Class A Volunteer Registration Form and completion of the Protective Behaviors and Concussion Awareness trainings.
 2. The coach/chaperone is responsible for the athlete 24 hours a day. It is up to the coach/chaperone to ensure the physical and emotional needs of the athlete(s) are met during the games.
 - A. Be sure athletes and partners are properly warmed up prior to competition.
 - B. Take precautions to avoid weather related problems. In summer, avoid sunburn and heat exhaustion by using sunscreen, drinking plenty of fluids, and taking advantage of shaded areas whenever possible. In winter, be sure athletes are adequately clothed; take advantage of opportunities to warm up, and avoid sunburn and windburn with sunscreen and moisturizers.
 - C. Be sure needed first aid is administered promptly. Bring a first aid kit if possible.
 - D. Make sure athletes get adequate rest.
 - E. Be sure athletes eat properly; avoid overeating or missing meals. NOTE: If an athlete requires a special diet, it is the responsibility of the coach/chaperone to provide for the athlete's needs. For special diets, bring a cooler with all the proper foods.
 - F. Be aware that the excitement of the games may encourage inappropriate behaviors. Close supervision at night and at all activities is required.
 - G. Maintaining eligibility requirements for athletes and Unified Partners. Regardless of when eligibility issues/violations are discovered, the athlete(s)/Unified Partner(s) will be removed from the team and no replacements will be allowed. All previous games/matches will be forfeited.
 3. The coach/chaperone should be aware of athlete possessions. Do not leave items unattended, double-check rooms when packing and inquire for lost items before leaving the games.
 4. The coach/chaperone is expected to be totally familiar with the medical conditions, precautions, and medication requirements of the athlete. It is the coach's/chaperone's responsibility to have medication administered. Knowledge of the medication regimen (what, how much, and when) is essential.
 5. The coach/chaperone is required to carry a copy of the valid Medical Form (or be able to provide comparable medical and emergency contact information) for each athlete and a copy of the Unified Sports Partner Application for Participation for each Unified Partner.
 6. Falsification of the Medical Form, Consent Form, Unified Sports Partner Application for Participation, etc. will result in disciplinary action and possible criminal charges.
 7. The coach/chaperone is required to understand and follow their agency's procedures to inform the parent/guardian of any athlete that may be injured during a Special Olympics practice, activity or event.
 8. The coach/chaperone must ensure that proper identification (wristbands, bibs, name badges, etc.) is worn by athletes and coaches at all times.

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9. The coach/chaperone must be totally familiar with all schedules: sports, special events, and meals. It is the coach's responsibility to ensure the athlete or partner is on time for all sports competitions and also has the opportunity to participate in special activities.
 10. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMPETITIONS.** (This includes Olympic Village). A coach/chaperone possessing alcohol will have the alcohol confiscated and will be placed on a two (2) year suspension from all Special Olympics activities beginning at the conclusion of the event. If the safety of the athlete(s) is jeopardized, the coach/chaperone will be immediately removed from the event and the status of the team will be determined on a case by case basis. Notification of suspension(s) will be sent to the Region Director and to the Special Olympics Athletic Director for the agency.
 11. Sanctions will be implemented if an agency is discovered to have anyone not officially registered for the event in Special Olympics Illinois provided housing. Possible sanctions range from written warnings to possible suspensions for the coach(es)/chaperones responsible. If the safety of the athlete(s) is jeopardized, Special Olympics Illinois can immediately remove the coach/chaperone from the event.
 12. The coach/chaperone is required to know and adhere to all Special Olympics Illinois policy and procedures, codes of conduct, Protective Behaviors guidelines, rules and regulations, and sports rules. Sports rules can be found on the Special Olympics Inc. website at www.specialolympics.org. Rule Interpretations are available on the Special Olympics Illinois website at www.soill.org. National Governing Body rules are located in the Rule Interpretations for each sport. Violations may result in a coach/chaperone facing probation, suspension or expulsion from Special Olympics Illinois events.
 13. Any individual using, possessing or distributing illegal drugs will be permanently banned from any Special Olympics Illinois activity and the proper legal authorities will be notified.
 14. An athlete cannot serve as his/her own coach. An athlete cannot be a coach in the same sport in which they have competed during the calendar year.
 15. Special Olympics Illinois highly discourages coaches from serving as Unified Partners in any circumstance as it is counterintuitive to the intent and philosophy of Unified Sports, whereby Special Olympics athletes participate with peers from the community, outside the Special Olympics organization.

Special Olympics Illinois coaches **MAY NOT** participate as a Unified Partner under the following circumstances:

1. The coach is the designated coach for the Unified team or partners.
2. The coach is the designated coach for a different Unified team/partner(s) or for a traditional team/athlete(s) at the competition.
3. The coach is the designated coach for another sport whose competition is held within the same competition event. Example: the coach cannot be a Unified Partner in Bocce at Summer Games if they are the designated coach for an athlete(s) in Aquatics also held at Summer Games.