

COACHES EXPECTATIONS

The primary purpose of these expectations is to establish a high standard of coach or volunteer behavior, which will ensure the safety and well being of all athletes involved in training and competition. All coaches are expected to abide by the code of conduct and standards of behavior as established by Special Olympics Wisconsin.

Coaches are in a position of power and athletes trust their coach. Sadly, some coaches abuse that power and abuse of athletes is too common an occurrence. Acting in your own self interest, because “everyone” else does it or in a way that inflicts harm brings your reputation and your sport in the spot light for the wrong reasons.

Role of a coach:

Qualifications:

- ✓ The desire and enthusiasm to provide athlete training to the best of their ability.
- ✓ To be a role model and build up positive character for the athletes.

Dedicated coaches provide comprehensive sports training and the fundamentals for athletes to do their personal best on the playing field. This training affects Special Olympic athletes in every aspect of their lives including decision making, teamwork, responsibility and sportsmanship. Our coaches instill an attitude in our athletes that there are no limits! Coaches play a unique and indispensable role in Special Olympics all around the world.

Coaches provide the sports skills and spirit that define a true athlete. In addition, coaches are role models and character builders. Coaches give Special Olympics athletes the most immediate awareness of their own worth, ability, courage, and capacity to grow and improve. In the end, coaching Special Olympics Athletes becomes a rewarding experience and making an impact on people who are often over looked in today’s world.

Time Commitment: The number of hours per week depends on the size and involvement level of the agency. The time commitment increases around Area, Regional and State competitions. **If you have an athlete participating in the program who does not qualify for the next level of competition, you are still expected to follow through for the entire season.**

Primary Responsibilities:

- ✓ To train Everest Area Special Olympic athletes.
- ✓ To properly complete and submit all required registration materials by established deadlines.
- ✓ To assess each athlete to determine the individual and or team skill level for training and competition in selected sports.
- ✓ To develop training programs for each athlete to include instructions in fundamental skills, conditioning, competition and rules.
- ✓ Training program must be a minimum of eight hours.
- ✓ To create and environment at practices and competition that encourages good sportsmanship.

- ✓ To present and enforce the guidelines stated within the Athlete Code of Conduct each sports season.
- ✓ To communicate with other coaches and the agency manager on a regular basis.
- ✓ To have in possession at all practices and competitions, athlete medicals.
- ✓ Maintain athlete confidentiality and respect the right to privacy as regards personal and medial information.
- ✓ Provide for the general welfare, safety, health and well being of each athlete in your charge.
- ✓ Make sure your athletes are properly attired for prevailing weather conditions. (Cool clothes on hot days, including sunscreen and umbrellas, and hat and gloves on very cold days.)
- ✓ Dress and act at all times in a manner which will be a credit to Everest Area Special Olympics.
- ✓ Make sure athletes are assembled at the proper times and place for ceremonies and competitive events.
- ✓ For all state competitions provide the following specific services to each athlete in your care:
 - Assistance in accounting for luggage and personal items
 - Assistance during meal times
 - Assistance in reporting to competition areas and for awards ceremonies at proper times
 - Assistance in taking full advantage of clinics and other events
 - Making sure prescribed medications are taken at proper times

Legal Duties of a Coach

- ✓ Provide and maintain a safe and secure physical environment that lends respect to each athlete's right to a positive sports experience.
- ✓ Use acceptable and safe equipment while ensuring appropriate sports skill instruction.
- ✓ Match athletes according to strength, size and ability (this is to be done in collaboration with other members of the coaching staff and the agency manager overseeing the sport) while continually assessing each athlete in appropriate activities. Challenge them to their fullest potential.
- ✓ Ensure acceptable supervision and maintain an adequate volunteer to athlete ratio (3 or 4 athletes to 1 volunteer).
- ✓ While at overnight competitions provide 24 hour a day supervision in cooperation with assistant coaches.

Becoming a certified coach:

Special Olympics requires certification in sports that athletes are being trained in. Special Olympics Wisconsin provides training and resources to receive certification. Agency managers can arrange attendance and mileage reimbursement for attending any of these certification clinics.

Becoming a certified coach involves the following components:

- 1) Attending a Special Olympics orientation (can be provided by the agency managers)
- 2) Participating in an approved course
- 3) Complete a minimum of 10 hours in teaching and coaching Special Olympics athletes
- 4) Complete the Special Olympics application for sports training certification and submit it to the area office

Coaches standards of behavior

The following coach/volunteer behavior is unacceptable while participating in Special Olympic activities including, but not limited to practice, in transit, and at competitions.

- ✓ Profanity or verbal abuse
- ✓ Tobacco use in restricted areas
- ✓ Use of alcohol
- ✓ Frequent unexcused absences
- ✓ Exhibition of poor sportsmanship
- ✓ Violent or disruptive behavior
- ✓ Physical or verbal sexual overtures
- ✓ Any unwelcome physical contact
- ✓ Use of illegal drugs or controlled substances
- ✓ Possession of harmful weapons
- ✓ Physical abuse
- ✓ Felony or misdemeanors which seriously disrupt or impede the participation of athletes or others

