



The Special Olympics Kansas Coach Training System

Coaches are not be permitted on the field/bench at a regional or state competition without the following documents on file with SOKS:

Step 1: Complete Class A Form- Please note the Class A form should be on file with SOKS prior to coaching.

Step 2: Complete the on-line Protective Behaviors training. The training is valid for 3 years rounded to the end of the year.

Step 3: Concussion training. Certificate or documentation of training must be sent into the SOKS Headquarters and on file with SOKS for training to be valid. The training is valid for 3 years rounded to the end of the year. Approved on-line courses: 1) National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) 2) Center for Disease Control (CDC)

Volunteers completing just the minimum requirements listed above will be considered **Assistant Coaches**.

Individuals working with the team but not as a coach on the field/bench instructing the athletes are considered **Program Assistants** still and are required to have Class A and Protective Behavior training on file and up to date.

Certified Coaches

Special Olympics Kansas is dedicated to providing potential coaches with quality trainings and information that will allow them to become successful Special Olympics coaches. We believe the key to improving athletic performance and maintaining the well-being of our athletes is to have trained coaches. The Better the Coach...The Better the Experiences...The Better the Athlete. With this in mind we have created the Special Olympics Kansas Coaches' Training System which defines minimum criteria that coaches should meet. It also lays the foundation to create a continuing education program for our coaches.

To become a Special Olympics Certified Coach an individual will complete the minimum requirements listed below:

Step 4: General Orientation Course- Course includes: 1) General Orientation to Special Olympics Kansas 2) Principles of Coaching 3) Athlete Centered Coaching Guide 4) Code of Conduct.

Step 5: Sport Specific Training- Coaches should complete sport specific training in each sport they choose to coach. The training is valid for 3 years rounded to the end of the year.

Option 1 (preferred): Attend a Face-to-Face sport specific training conducted by Special Olympics Kansas staff or by an instructor* approved by the Regional Director and Sr. VP of Program Operations. (Documentation of attendance required). Dates for Fall training schools will be posted by 7/01; Winter and Spring training schools will be posted by 11/31; Dates for Summer Sports will be posted by 4/01.

Option 2: Complete a Special Olympics on-line sport specific quiz.

Option 3: Complete on-line or face-to-face ASEP or NFHS sport specific training. Coach must submit documentation of course completion to SOKS. Note: There are fees for some courses conducted by these organizations. Coaches are responsible for any fees associated with these courses.

*An instructor must be a certified coach in that sport and have coached for SOKS for 3 years, or special considerations as approved by the CEO/President. The training would include criteria approved by SOKS staff including the requirement of 80% passing grade on a written exam.

Re-Certification Process (Sport-Specific training)

Each coaches' sport specific training will be valid for 3 years rounded to the end of the year. At that time coaches may choose a training from the list below or choose to re-take Options 1-3 under Step 5. We strongly encourage coaches to select different options for each re-certification. Please contact SOKS if you would like SOKS to consider a training course for re-certification.

Approved Courses for re-certification:

- 1) First Aid – (SOKS Approved)
- 2) CPR – (SOKS Approved)
- 3) Coaching Unified Sports- NFHS
- 4) Heat Illness Prevention- NFHS
- 5) Sportsmanship- NFHS
- 6) Bullying, Hazing and Inappropriate Behaviors- NFHS

SOKS Appreciation for Certified Coaches

At time of initial Certification coaches will receive:

- 1) SOKS Certified Coach certificate
- 2) Certified Coach Lapel Pin

Active coaches that are already certified per the previous policy taking effect on August 1, 2016 will receive their certificate and lapel pin.

Gifts of appreciation for years of service to Special Olympics Kansas as a certified coach will be implemented in the near future.