This General Orientation is important as it provides you with information to be successful in your coaching role.
The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for persons eight years of age and older with intellectual disabilities, giving them opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.
Philosophy & Vision

Coaches should provide the following to their athletes:
1. Appropriate instruction and encouragement
2. Consistent training

SOKS will provide competition among those with equal abilities

The results of participating in Special Olympics are:
• Personal growth
• Stronger families
• United communities
• An environment of equality, respect and acceptance
Key Moments in the Organization’s History

• July 1968- The first International Special Olympics Summer Games are held at Soldier Field in Chicago with 1,000+ athletes from 26 U.S. States and Canada, competing in track & field and swimming.

• May 1970 – The first Kansas Special Olympics was held at Parsons State Hospital and Training Center with 300 participants

• 1981 – The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) is launched in Wichita, Kansas

• June 2010 – Special Olympics Kansas celebrated 40 years of service at the State Summer Games in Wichita, Kansas
How Special Olympics is Unique from Other Sports Organizations

• Sports opportunities for all ability levels
• Equitable competition is provided on the basis of gender, age, and ability. This process is called divisioning
• All participants who compete receive awards
• Random Draw for advancement to higher levels of competition
• Special Olympics does not charge a fee to athletes (or their families) to train or compete.
Lines of Communications

Special Olympics Inc.
Washington, DC

Special Olympics North America

Special Olympics Kansas

Metro Region
North Central Region
South Central Region
Southeast Region
West Region

Metro Region Local Programs
North Central Region Local Program
South Central Region Local Program
Southeast Region Local Programs
West Region Local Programs
The **Regional** Level

- The state is divided into 5 regions; SE and Metro are managed by one Regional Director (RD).
  1. Each Region is managed by a RD who receives support from the Headquarters (HQ) office staff
  2. RD’s facilitate regional level competition throughout the year in sports offered by Special Olympics Kansas.
  3. Regions may decide how many competitions, and in which sports, they are able to offer each year.
  4. Points of contact: for Certified Coaches – LPC; for Local Teams – Regional Directors
Local Program Structure

• As a certified coach you are part of a Local Program.

• Local Program-The local level of Special Olympics Kansas. Comprised of 1 or more athletes, families, and volunteers. Local Programs hold weekly practices during a sport season and compete in regional and possibly state events. There may be 1 or more teams within a Local Program.

• **Local Program Coordinator(s)**- The lead individual or individuals in charge of administration for a Local Program.

• As a certified coach you are under the supervision of the Local Program Coordinator (LPC). This person should be a resource for you.
Certified Coach

• **Certified Coach** - A coach who has met the requirements set forth by Special Olympics Kansas. This volunteer is a member of a Local Program and is responsible for providing consistent and professional training to Special Olympics athletes. Certification is valid for 4 years.
Certified Coach Job Description - SOKS

The coach provides athletes with sports training and competition opportunities.

Responsibilities: SOKS will provide materials and/or hands-on training to explain the responsibilities below. We will answer any questions you may have.

• To know and understand the rules of the sport being coached: Special Kansas Modifications to rules; Official Special Olympics Sports Rules; National Governing Body Rules; Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA). This includes knowing the order in which they will be followed.

• Attend Coaches Training Schools and other training opportunities.

• Evaluate athletes’ abilities according to the Special Olympics standards. This includes conducting Skill Assessment tests when required.

• Ensure athletes participate in an eight week training period prior to competing. It’s understood due to weather or facility issues 8 weeks of training isn’t always possible however every attempt should be made to meet the 8 weeks of training guideline.

• Provide a safe environment for athletes to train and compete.

• Know emergency procedures- this would include weather safety, basic first aid, etc.

• Ensure athletes have adequate and properly fitted equipment. Example- Athletes should not be wearing jeans when competing in athletics.

• Work with Local Program Coordinator to ensure athletes Medical/Release forms (physicals), Health Information Update Forms, and Down Syndrome Addendum Forms are taken to training locations and competition sites.

• Plan and organize practice sessions.

• Maintain communication with Local Program Coordinator, athletes, and their families.

• Work with Local Program Coordinator to be sure accurate assessment information is recorded on registration materials and submitted by regional or state deadlines.

• To execute the moral and ethical responsibilities of a Coach.

• Follow Coaches’ Code of Conduct.
The Certified Coach Policy will become effective **August 1, 2017**.

Each sport in which a Local Program trains and competes must have at least one (1) Certified Coach in the sport prior to their Delegations participation in the competition.

The Certified Coach must attend the majority of practices and is listed on the Games Registration Form.

The Games Registration Forms are due by the registration deadline for the first competition of the sport season.

If the sport in which the Local Program is participating is a team sport, each team of their Delegation must have a Certified Coach prior to training and competing. Example: The Mud Hens Special Olympics Delegation has 4 basketball teams.

Each team must have a Certified Coach or rather, the Mud Hens will need 4 Certified Basketball Coaches.
B. Failure to Have a Certified Coach - Sanctions

Notwithstanding Section A above, if any team of a Local Program does not have a Certified Coach, the Local Program is subject to the following:

1st Offense- A phone call will be placed to the Local Coordinator to discuss the violation. The call will be followed up by a letter. The Local Program has until the next season (for the same sport) to correct the violation. If the Local Program has not corrected the violation by the beginning of the next season (for the same sport), the following shall occur until such time as the Local Program is in compliance:

Any team of the Local Program who has received notice identified above and does not have a Certified Coach may participate in a competition, but its participants will be awarded a participation award rather than receiving a place award.
Requirements to be a Certified Coach

1) Class A
2) Protective Behaviors - needs to be renewed every 2 years rounded to the end of the year.
3) Concussion training (documentation of completion on file with SOKS) – needs to be renewed every 2 years rounded to the end of the year.
4) General Coach Training (on-line training). One-time only.
   Includes:
   → General orientation to Special Olympics & SOKS
   → Principles of Coaching
   → Coaching Special Olympics athletes
5) Attend a Sport-Specific Training School (specific to sport they are wanting to coach).
   The training is face-to-face. This is a requirement of volunteers seeking Coach Status after August 1, 2017. Current sport-specific coaches (in system prior 08/01/2017) are required to attend face-to-face training school at time of re-certification (required every 4 years). Once a coach has attended a training school he/she may renew his/her coach certification on-line by completing the sport-specific quiz.
   Note: Coaches must attend a face-to-face training school every third certification (12 years).
6) LPC Approval of Local Program Coordinator - Local Program Coordinator sees no reason this volunteer shouldn’t be classified as a Coach.
   SOKS responsibility to get approval from LPC
7) Signed Code of Conduct to be kept on file with SOKS
   (per SOKS policy to be effective August 1, 2017)
Coaches Training

Properly trained and certified coaches impart to Special Olympics’ athletes’ fitness, sports skills, competition experience and the value of participating in sports. SOKS conducts several sports specific training schools that offer general instruction on fundamental skills of the sport plus basic information on conditioning, injury prevention and rules. In addition, SOKS also provides on-line training guides and quizzes.

WHY BECOME CERTIFIED?
• Promote the mission of Special Olympics Kansas.
• Provide your athletes with the safest and most effective training sessions possible.
• Enhance your coaching skills.
• Keep up to date on current rules and training techniques.
• Protect yourself against liability.
Coaches Code of Conduct

It is the responsibility of all coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their athletes and in all trainings and competitions. Failure to do so undermines the official’s authority and the integrity of the game, resulting in a hostile environment for the athletes, officials, coaches, assistant coaches and spectators. As a role model for the athletes, spectators and coaches participating in the event, all are expected to be supportive of and to acknowledge the effort, good play and sportsmanship on the part of ALL players from all participating teams.

By example, coaches and assistant coaches are expected to show that although they are competing, they have respect for the opponent and officials at all times. Special Olympics Kansas will not tolerate negative behavior exhibited either by demonstrative actions and gestures, or verbally by ill-intentioned remarks, including those addressed toward the official or opposing team members. Coaches exhibiting hostile, negative sarcastic or otherwise ill-intended behavior toward officials, opposing athletes or coaches will be subject to disciplinary action by Special Olympics Kansas.

Responsibilities to the Rules of the Game

• Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the Rules of the Sport.
• Coaches are responsible to assure their athletes understand the intent as well as the application of the Rules.
• Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the Rules of the Game.
• Coaches are responsible for their athletes actions during competition and must not permit them to perform with intent of causing injury to opposing athletes.
• The coach must constantly strive to teach good sporting behavior.
Coaches Code of Conduct (cont’d)

Responsibility to the Officials

• Officials must have the support of the coaches, players and spectators.
• Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players or spectators.
• Professional respect, before, during and after the competition should be mutual. There is to be no demeaning dialogue or gestures between official, coach or players.
• Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of the game.
• Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the Management Team personnel.
• Coaches should not approach officials after the competition to discuss calls.
• Coaches shall not offer dissent to any call made by an official or referee at any time.
• Coaches are not to address the official/referee during competition except to: a) respond to officials/referees who has initiated a conversation; b) point out emergency or safety issues; c) make substitutions; and d) ask for the time remaining in regulation play.
Athlete Oath:

“Let me win,
But if I cannot win,
Let me be brave in the attempt.”
Special Olympics Athletes

• To Be Eligible To Participate... in Special Olympics, individuals must be at least eight years old and identified by an agency or professional as having one of the following conditions: intellectual disabilities, cognitive delays as measured by formal assessment, or significant learning or vocational problems due to cognitive delay that require or have required specially-designed instruction.

• Families/individuals may apply at the State Office or approach a team directly to complete eligibility requirements, including a Medical Release form. Forms must be on file at the State Office prior to the athlete participating in practice or competition.

• Athletes are (preferably) placed on teams geographically close to their home which offer training in sports in which the athlete has shown interest.

• Athletes are expected to compete in regional competitions if its offered. If competition is not available in the athlete's “home” region they may compete in another Regional games or they may advance directly to a State Games.
The SOKS Medical/Release Form may be current for up to three years. The renewal period will begin January 1 of a cycle and all Medical/Release Forms submitted during the renewal period or during the cycle will expire on December 31 of 2018, 2020, 2022, etc. A Medical/Release Form may be submitted to Headquarters at any time.

<table>
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<th>Physicals Given Between</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017</td>
<td>December 31, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2019</td>
<td>December 31, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021</td>
<td>December 31, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Physical Examination and Health Information Update Procedure

Each athlete is required to have an initial Medical/Release Form on file at SOKS Headquarters. The initial Medical/Release Form includes a physical examination which must be conducted by a physician or other licensed professional to perform a physical examination in the State of Kansas. Licensed professionals by the State of Kansas Board of Healing Arts include: Medical Doctor (MD), Doctor of Osteopathy (DO), Doctor of Chiropractic (DC), Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) or a Physician’s Assistant (PA).
Benefits of Participating in Special Olympics

Improved strength, stamina & motor skills

Improved self-esteem & self-confidence

Healthy and dependable employees

Greater independent participation in the community
Special Olympics requires at least an eight-week training program prior to any competitive event. Fitness, stretching, conditioning and drill work are outlined in the Coaching Guides. Athlete clinics are scheduled periodically in many Regions for additional training opportunities.
Athlete Code of Conduct

Special Olympics Kansas is committed to the highest ideals of sport and expects all athletes to honor sports and Special Olympics.

THE CODE - All Special Olympics athletes and Unified Sports partners agree to the following code:

SPORTSMANSHIP
I will practice good sportsmanship.
I will act in ways that bring respect to me, my coaches, my team and Special Olympics.
I will not use bad language. I will not swear or insult other individuals.
I will not fight with other athletes, coaches, volunteers or staff.

TRAINING AND COMPETITION
I will train regularly. I will learn and follow the rules of my sport.
I will listen to my coaches and the officials and ask questions when I do not understand.
I will always try my best during training, divisioning and competitions.
I will not “hold back” in preliminaries just to get into an easier final heat.
Athlete Code of Conduct (cont’d)

TRAINING AND COMPETITION

I will train regularly. I will learn and follow the rules of my sport.
I will listen to my coaches and the officials and ask questions when I do not understand.
I will always try my best during training, divisioning and competitions.
I will not “hold back” in preliminaries just to get into an easier final heat.

RESPONSIBILITY for MY ACTIONS

I will not make inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal or sexual advances on others.
I will not drink alcohol, smoke or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics
at training sessions, competitions or during Games.
I will not take drugs for the purpose of improving my performance.
I will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules.

I understand that if I do not obey this Code of Conduct, Special Olympics Kansas may not allow me to participate.
Sports Information
Where Special Olympics Kansas Athletes compete?

- Park & Recreation leagues or tournaments – SOKS encourages this, if appropriate
- National Governing Body events – SOKS encourages this, if appropriate
- Other Special Olympics programs tournaments (approval needed)
- SOKS Leagues or scrimmages
- Regional Competitions
- State Games
- Regional Special Olympics Competitions (multi-state)
- National Games
- World Games
- Special Olympics Invitational Tournaments
- National Governing Body events – SOKS encourages this, if appropriate
Levels of Special Olympics Competition

Special Olympics training and competitions begin on the Local Level (school, agency, recreation department, etc.), progress to the Regional Level and then to the State Level. Athletes must attend practices and the regional competition, when offered, prior to competing at the State Level.

**LOCAL EVENTS:** Games and events are encouraged as additional competitions prior to a Regional or State event. Individuals wishing to conduct a Local competition must inform the Regional Director of their interest. The Regional Director is responsible for ensuring that the organization and quality of the event meet the acceptable standards of SOKS, and the dates, times and location do not conflict with other scheduled Special Olympics events. The Regional Director may approve the sanctioning of the event. If a request is denied, the name Special Olympics may not be used.

**REGIONAL EVENTS:** Athletes from a certain geographic region of the state.

**STATE EVENTS:** Athletes from across the state are eligible, if participation criteria are met.

**USA GAMES:** USA Summer Games are held every 4 years. The next one is in 2018 (Seattle).

**WORLD GAMES:** Offered every two years on an alternating Winter Games and Summer Games basis. The next World Summer Games will be in 2019 (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates), 2023 etc., and World Winter Games in 2021, 2025 etc. U.S. Programs will compete as Special Olympics U.S.A.
SOKS Sports Offered

Special Olympics Kansas offers competition and training in:

- Alpine Skiing
- Bocce
- Cross Country Skiing
- Flag Football
- Soccer
- Softball
- Unified Sports
- Athletics (Track & Field)
- Bowling
- Cycling
- Golf
- Speed Skating
- Swimming
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Figure Skating
- Powerlifting
- Snowshoeing
- Tennis
## Regional Events Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unified Bocce</td>
<td>Jan/Feb</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>July/August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>Bocce</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>April/May</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>April/May</td>
<td>Flag Football</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>April/May</td>
<td>Bowling</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powerlifting</td>
<td>April/May</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>April/May</td>
<td>Unified Basketball</td>
<td>October/Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unified Soccer</td>
<td>April/May</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Contingent upon Regions offering:*
State Competition Information

John L Cassidy Heartland Winter Games (Weston, MO)- January
Competition offered: Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Speed Skating, Figure Skating, Snowshoeing, Floor Hockey and Floor Hockey Individual Skills

Basketball & Cheerleading Tournament (Hays) – March
Competition offered: Team Basketball, Individual Skills, Speed Dribble, Team Skills and Cheerleading.

Powerlifting (Lawrence) – May
Competition offered: Bench, deadlift, and squat

Summer Games (Maize) - June
Competition offered: Athletics (Track & Field), Minor: Cycling, Swimming, and Tennis

Charles E. Watson Softball & Golf Tournament (Wichita) - July

Soccer & Bocce Tournament (Olathe)– September/October
Competition offered: 5-a-side soccer; Bocce Singles, Bocce Doubles

Fall Sports Classic (Johnson County) – November
Competition offered: Team Volleyball, Bowling
The Official Special Olympics Rules shall govern all SOKS competitions. The National Governing Body Rules shall apply only when they are not in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Rules. In such case, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall apply. SOKS may have rules specific to Kansas that differ from the National Governing Body or the Official Special Olympics Sports rules. Any questions pertaining to the rules should be directed to the Sr. VP of Program Operations at Headquarters.

Suggested Rules Modifications
The field has the opportunity to make suggestions on new rules. Please contact Tim Rehder at rehdert@ksso.org (Sr. VP of Program Operations) about this process.
Age Group Policy

One unique and important feature of the Special Olympics program is its ability groups for competition. It is our goal to provide each and every athlete in any given event an equal opportunity to place first. In order to accomplish this, we form our competition divisions differently than any other sports program. The following age groups shall be used for all SOKS games and competitions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Type</th>
<th>Youth Age Range</th>
<th>Junior Age Range</th>
<th>Senior Age Range</th>
<th>Masters Age Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Individual Sports</td>
<td>ages 8-11</td>
<td>ages 12-15</td>
<td>ages 16-21</td>
<td>ages 22-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ages 30 years and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Team Sports and Relay Events</td>
<td>ages 15 and under</td>
<td>ages 16-21</td>
<td>ages 22 and over</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Open Age Group:** reserved for combining age groups to meet the required minimum number of competitors or teams in a division.

An athlete’s age group is determined by the athlete’s age on the opening date of the competition or games. The age of the oldest athlete on a team shall be used to determine the age group in which that team will compete.

**Combining Age Groups:** In situations where there are not enough competitors to hold competition in a certain age group, the athletes should be moved into the next oldest age group or moved to an open age group.
Skills Assessment Test (SAT)/Coaching Guides

Skills Assessment Test (SAT) -- In order to create fair and equal levels of competition, Special Olympics has gone to great lengths to division athletes of equal or similar abilities on the athletic playing field. The first step in determining an athlete’s ability is their Skill Assessment Test (SAT) score. Each athlete’s score is recorded and the average of the athletes’ scores will be used as the team SAT Score. Contact SOKS for (SAT) Test or the SOKS website

Coaching Guides - -are training and competition guides for the coaches. These sport-specific books provide information such as an eight-week training program, basic skills techniques, safety concerns, and much more. You can download from the SOI website at:

Safety/Risk Management

Risk Management addresses potential problems before they occur.

Coaches have the ultimate responsibility to reduce the risk of participation for athletes involved in the sport that they are coaching.

Questions coaches should ask themselves.
• Is the facility I use for practice safe? Is it free from obstacles? Is the playing surface uneven – holes, uneven grade, moisture
• Is our equipment appropriate and well maintained. Coaches should direct athletes on how to use equipment. Does the equipment fit properly.
• What weather considerations should I be aware of.
• Do I have an adequate First Aid Kit?
• Is athletes attire appropriate for the sport?
• Do I allow “horse play” from athletes that could cause an injury
• Have I communicated the importance of safety to coaches, athletes, etc.
• What is Risk Management – It seeks to address potential problems before they occur
• Am I aware of medical conditions that effect my athletes?
Policies Related to Coaching

• All SOKS Policies can be accessed on-line at http://ksso.org/soks%20manual/

Below are some of the Sports Policies:
  • Special Olympics Age Groups Policy Athletics Event Participation Ratio Policy
  • Heat and Lightning Policies
  • Athlete Housing Policy
  • Volunteer Screening Policy
  • Special Olympics Kansas Medical/Release Procedure
  • Certified Coach Policy
  • Concussion Policy
Terms to be Familiar With

**Assistant Coach** - volunteer who assists the Certified Coach during practices and at a Regional/State competition. It’s recommended that they have some sports knowledge but it’s not mandatory.

**Athlete** - An individual with intellectual disabilities who has a physical on file with Special Olympics Kansas. Note: An athlete with Down syndrome must also have a Down syndrome addendum on file.

**Certified Coach** - A coach who has met the requirements set forth by Special Olympics Kansas. This volunteer is a member of a Local Program and is responsible for providing consistent and professional training to Special Olympics athletes. Certification is valid for 4 years.

**Class A Volunteer** - A volunteer who has regular, close physical contact with athletes, is in a position of authority over athletes, supervises athletes;

**Class A Volunteer Form** - A document used to register a Class A volunteer and authorize a background check on that individual.
Terms to be Familiar With (cont’d)

**Delegation**- Athletes and coaches who participate in a regional or state competition.

**Healthy Athletes**- An initiative providing free health screenings and health education to Special Olympics athletes to improve access to health care, knowledge of health-related information and general fitness.

**Local Program**- The local level of Special Olympics Kansas. Comprised of 1 or more athletes, families, and volunteers. Local Programs hold weekly practices during a sport season and compete in regional and possibly state events.

**Local Program Coordinator(s)**- The lead individual or individuals in charge of administration for a Local Program.

**Protective Behaviors**- An educational training program designed to prevent physical, emotional, and sexual abuse of Special Olympics athletes.
Region - Special Olympics Kansas divides the State into 5 geographic areas.

Regional Director - The staff member in charge of operations for a specific geographic region of the state.

Regional Games - Competitions held for local programs within a specific region.

Special Olympics Kansas, Inc. (SOKS) - Responsible for the implementation and oversight of the Special Olympics program within the state of Kansas.

Team - Athletes participating in a team sport as part of a delegation.

Training Schools - Educational sessions provided to Special Olympics Kansas coaches. Information regarding working with athletes in a particular sport and relevant tactics or strategies pertaining to that sport.
The mission of Healthy Athletes® is to improve athletes’ ability to train and compete by improving their health and fitness. Healthy Athletes® provides free health education and event-based health clinics in a fun and welcoming environment.

Special Olympics Kansas has offered Healthy Athletes since 2003. Athletes participate in health screenings offered at state competitions. These screenings are carried out by health care professionals who receive special training and volunteer their time and talents to benefit the athletes.

Disciplines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FitFeet</th>
<th>Healthy Hearing</th>
<th>Health Promotion</th>
<th>Opening Eyes</th>
<th>Special Smiles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Games</td>
<td>Maize - June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soccer/Bocce</td>
<td>Olathe - September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Sports Classic</td>
<td>Shawnee– November</td>
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Health & Wellness plays a significant role in whether an athlete reaches their potential. Special Olympics Kansas encourages coaches to assist athletes to develop healthy lifestyles.

Here are some items to focus on:
Health & Wellness - Hydration

Hydration - Encourage athletes to drink 64oz of water per day
  • Encourage them to bring water bottles to practice
  • Remind them why drinking water is important – gives you energy, prevents muscle cramps, and promotes weight loss

Stretching
  • A warm-up stretching routine should be a component of every practice.
  • Encourage athletes to exercise on a daily basis. Be mindful of how you can incorporate fitness into your sports practice – keep athletes’ moving.

Sun Safety
  • A certified coach needs to assign an individual to monitor an athlete’s exposure to the heat/sun during an event or practice

5 Ways to help protect athletes from the sun/heat
  • Apply sunscreen – use SPF 50 or higher. Recommended to re-apply every 2 hours
  • Encourage athletes to wear hats and protective clothing
  • Seek shade
  • Sunglasses
Additional Programs for coaches to be familiar with

**Unified Sports®**

Special Olympics Unified Sports® combine partners with and without disabilities (Unified Partners) on the same team. By participating together, athletes and Unified Partners improve their physical fitness, sharpen their skills, and overcome prejudices about intellectual disabilities.

Find out more at: [www.kssso.org/kansas-unified-sports-league](http://www.kssso.org/kansas-unified-sports-league)

**Young Athletes™**

Young Athletes™ is an innovative sports program that introduces children ages 3 to 7 years old, with and without intellectual disabilities, to the world of sports. The program focuses on the development of physical and social skills and while also providing parents the opportunity to network with other families.

Find out more at: [www.kssso.org/young-athletes](http://www.kssso.org/young-athletes)
Resources

<table>
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<th>Facebook</th>
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</table>

5280 Foxridge Drive
Mission, KS 66216
913.236.9290

www.ksso.org/staff-information
SOKS appreciates the time and talents volunteers give to our organization.

By volunteering you are making a difference in the lives of our athletes. The impact of your service goes beyond the playing field.
The Better the Coach...

The Better the Experiences...

The Better the Athlete!