



Certified Coach Policy

The Certified Coach Policy will become effective **August 1, 2017**. **Any individual who wishes to coach a sport must be sport certified in every sport they coach.** 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.

Requirements to be a Certified Coach (per SOKS policy to be effective August 1, 2017)

- 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 Certified 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 12 years.
- 6) Approval of Local Program Coordinator- Local Program Coordinator sees no reason this volunteer shouldn't be classified as a Coach. SOKS is responsible for this step in the certification process.
- 7) Signed Code of Conduct to be kept on file with SOKS

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For additional Info please contact:

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