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1. A coach must have an approved Class A volunteer form on file and completed the Protective Behaviors training prior to assuming any coaching activities. Special Olympics Illinois does not recognize any agency volunteers or employees prior to approval of the Class A form.
 2. The coach is responsible for the athlete 24 hours a day. It is up to the coach 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 sun screen, 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 wind burn with sun screen 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 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. *The coach is responsible for 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 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 is expected to be totally familiar with the medical conditions, precautions, and medication requirements of the athlete. It is the coach's responsibility to have medication administered. Knowledge of the medication regimen (what, how much, and when) is essential.
 5. The coach is required to carry a copy of the valid Application for Participation for each athlete and a copy of the Unified Sports Partner Application for Participation for each Unified Partner. Falsification of these documents will result in disciplinary action and possible criminal charges.
 6. The coach must ensure that proper identification (wristbands, bibs, name badges, etc.) is worn by athletes and coaches at all times.
 7. The coach 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 competition and also has the opportunity to participate in special activities.



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8. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMPETITIONS.** (This includes Olympic Village). A coach possessing alcohol will have the alcohol confiscated and the coach 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 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 Area Director and to the Special Olympics Athletic Director for the agency.
 9. For events when Special Olympics Illinois provides housing: If an agency is discovered to have anyone not officially registered for the event in Special Olympics Illinois provided housing during the designated closed hours for the event, the coach(es) responsible will be placed on a one (1) 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 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 Area Director and to the Special Olympics Athletic Director for the agency.
 10. The coach is required to know and adhere to all Special Olympics Illinois policy and procedures, 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 and to access the National Governing Body rules those are located in the Rule Interpretations for each sport. Violations may result in a coach facing probation, suspension or expulsion from Special Olympics Illinois events.
 11. 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.
 12. An athlete cannot serve as his/her own coach.
 13. 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 or partners or a traditional team or athlete 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.