

## **LODGING & COVID VACCINATION INFORMATION**

While vaccinations are not required to participate in Special Olympics Illinois (SOILL) events, SOILL must follow new housing vaccination requirements set by Special Olympics Inc. SOILL must collect the vaccination status for all athletes and coaches registering for Winter Games housing and collect proof of vaccination for athletes and coaches who indicate they are vaccinated. *The vaccination status and proof of vaccination are for internal SOILL use only.*

### **New SOILL Housing Rules for Winter Games:**

- No more than 4 vaccinated individuals may share a room
- No more than 2 individuals may share a room if 1 individual is unvaccinated
- 1 unvaccinated individual may share a room with 1 other vaccinated individual
- 2 unvaccinated individuals may not share a room

Special Olympics Illinois is moving to a no bed share policy so athletes and coaches will no longer share beds. However, due to limited hotel space and COVID vaccination requirements, athletes and coaches may have to share a room. If your agency has a policy against coaches and athletes sharing a room, this formal policy must be signed by the Agency Director, COO or Superintendent and submitted with entries.

Agencies are asked to adhere to the 4:1 ratio policy due to limited hotel space. If your agency needs to exceed this ratio for any reason, this formal request must be signed by the Agency Director, COO or Superintendent and submitted with entries.

For the 2022 Winter Games and because of the new SOI housing requirements, SOILL may not be able to provide housing for all athletes and coaches registering for the event. Situations where SOILL may not be able to provide housing:

- Athletes and coaches whom are not vaccinated or fail to show proof of vaccination.
- Agencies with a policy against coaches and athletes sharing a room.
- Agencies needing to exceed the 4:1 athlete to coach ratio.
- Agencies with less than a 50% vaccination rate.

SOILL will make every reasonable attempt to house all agencies requesting lodging but may not be able to do so. For those groups (identified above) that SOILL is unable to house:

- By January 20, SOILL will inform those agencies, if any, whose housing request cannot be granted.
- SOILL will offer a housing stipend of \$75 per approved number of nights for these individuals to secure their own housing.
- Please note that the stipend may not cover the full cost of housing expenses for individuals that SOILL is not able to accommodate.
- The \$75 stipend is specific to the 2022 Winter Games and could be modified or eliminated in future years.
- Agencies that do not request housing will not be eligible to receive a stipend.

All registered coaches and athletes whom SOILL is able to provide housing for will be assigned housing at either Chestnut Mountain Lodge, Eagle Ridge, Stoney Creek or Ramada. If lodging is

requested, then agencies must fill out housing form. Monday night lodging will be considered for Regions J & K only.

All individuals registered for Winter Games are expected to stay in the provided housing. Special Olympics Illinois pays for this housing and all meals. Agencies that do not request housing or allow athletes to stay with family outside of the provided housing do so by their own choice and will forfeit certain benefits of the event such as: provided meals and access to the 24 hour emergency medical services. Additionally, it may nullify the liability and secondary medical insurance provided by Special Olympics. Agencies opting not to use provided housing at Winter Games are required to indicate so on the Winter Games Registration Form

## **FAQ:**

**Why would Special Olympics Illinois adopt this policy on housing during COVID?** Special Olympics must adhere to the housing policies set by our parent corporation Special Olympics Incorporated.

**What if my agency and / or family members are uncomfortable with the SOILL policy of having unvaccinated individuals share rooms with vaccinated individuals?** Agency will need to create their own policy for this scenario. If agency is uncomfortable with the SOILL policy, then each agency will need to decide if they want to bring unvaccinated individuals and if so, they will need to provide their housing with no stipend reimbursement.

**What if no vaccination card is provided with Housing Form?**  
Athletes will be considered unvaccinated no matter their actual status.

**What if my athletes and coaches have been vaccinated, but have lost their vaccination card?** If athlete / coach has been vaccinated, but card has been lost, we will accept a (Illinois Department of Public Health) IDPH Patient Immunization Report. This must be on their letterhead. We will not accept school reports.

**What if my athletes and coaches have received their first vaccination, have not yet received the 2<sup>nd</sup> shot but have the 2<sup>nd</sup> shot scheduled?** The date of the 2nd vaccination can be written in the 2nd dose column of housing form. However, they must show proof of vaccination no later than January 13, 2022.

**What if none of my athletes and coaches have been vaccinated?** Due to a lack of space, any agency that has less than 50% vaccination rate will most likely not receive housing.

**Will there be any quarantine rooms if athletes begin to feel ill?** No.

**What happens if one of my athletes starts to feel sick?** That athlete will need to leave the premises immediately. They will not be allowed to compete or stay in housing any longer.

**What happens if the sick athlete does not have a family member to take them home?** The agency will be responsible for taking the athlete home.

**What will the cleaning process be of rooms of individuals that are feeling sick?** Each hotel has protocols that they follow. The hotel will be responsible for cleaning the room.