

Coaches

Behind every successful athlete is a coach. Being a coach can be one of the most rewarding experiences of a lifetime – both for you and your athletes. We provide the training you need to be a successful coach.

Become a Coach

Your first step to becoming a coach starts with your county program. Contact your County Director to begin the process of becoming a certified coach.

Certified Coach

This is for all individuals training athletes in a sport. While some volunteers may choose to remain a Sport Assistant, others may strive to increase their level in coaching and sports specific knowledge. Coaches must be at least 18 years old to be a certified coach. Anyone between the ages of 14-17 can attend a training school, but will remain a Sport Assistant. Volunteers who wish to increase their coaching skills can progress through the levels of certification outlined below:

Sport Assistant:

(Entry Level Requirements)

- Class A Form / Complete Background Check (expires every 3 years)
- Special Olympics General Orientation Training and Quiz (completed one time only)
- Protective Behaviors Training (expires every 3 years)
 - https://resources.specialolympics.org/protective_behaviors_training.aspx
- Concussion Course (expires every 3 years)
 - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61064/concussion-in-sports>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>

Level 1 – Certified Coach*:

(Core Coaching & Sport Specific Knowledge)

- All Sport Assistant requirements
- Traditional Special Olympics: Coaching Special Olympics Athletes – online course via Human Kinetics Coach Education or in person training conducted by certified trainer.
 - http://www.asep.com/courseInfo/purchase_courseinfo.cfm?courseID=233&format=&usaw_status=&orgID=0&subOrgID=3645
- Unified Sports: Coaching Unified Sports – online course via NFHS or in person training conducted by a certified trainer.
 - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61127/coaching-unified-sports>
- Traditional & Unified: Sports Specific Course – In-person sport specific training.
- Application for Sports Training Certification and ten practicum hours (time actually spend training Special Olympics athletes) after attending a training school.

***NOTE: Level required of Head Coaches attending State and USA National Games in the specific sport being coached.**

Level 2– Certified Coach:**

(Advanced Coaching Knowledge)

- All Level 2 requirements
- Principles of Coaching Course – online or in-person training conducted by a certified trainer.
 - http://www.asep.com/courseInfo/purchase_courseinfo.cfm?CourseID=233&OrgID=64

****NOTE: Level required of Head Coaches attending World Games.**

Certification

Sports Certification expires every 3 years. If your certification expires or is about to expire, you may contact Kendra Wallace to get more information or take the online recertification quiz found at www.sowv.org. Click the Get Involved tab then go down to where it says Coaching, then click Recertification Quiz.