

## 2026 USA Games Coach Application Team Iowa Information and Expectations

The 2026 USA Games will be in Minnesota. The Special Olympics Iowa Delegation will depart for Minneapolis/St. Paul on June 19, 2026 and return to Iowa on June 27, 2026.

### Application Process

- Applications will be released April 1, 2025
- Applications will be due June 6, 2025
- Selections will be made by June 20, 2025

### Sports and Athlete/Coach Allocation

- Track & Field (2 males, 2 females, 1 coach)
- Swimming (2 males, 2 females, 1 coach)
- Bocce (2 male athlete, 2 female athlete, 1 coach)
- Bowling (2 male athlete, 2 female athlete, 1 coach)
- Tennis (4 athletes, 1 coach)
- Pickleball (1 male athlete, 1 male UP, 1 female athlete, 1 female UP, 1 coach)
- Powerlifting (2 males, 2 females, 1 coach)
- 5-on-5 Basketball (1 male/mixed traditional team – max 10 athletes, 3 coaches)
- Team Volleyball (1 male/mixed traditional team – max 12 athletes, 3 coaches)

### Coach Expectations

- Must have a current Class A Volunteer certification and background check.
- Be certified in the sport(s) they are applying for.
- Be certified in advanced training “Coaching Special Olympics Athletes”
- Number of years coaching the sport(s) they apply for will be taken into consideration
- Oversee athletes during the week of competition.
- Will be housed with Team Iowa members in assigned housing during the USA Games.
- Will not be allowed travel with or stay with family or friends to or during the USA Games.
- Coaches must function as part of a team, including group living.
- Will attend required training camps, if held.
- Will attend required meetings and uniform fittings.
- Coaches must be a minimum of 21 years old by the competition.

**Please return completed application with a current headshot to [registrations@soiowa.org](mailto:registrations@soiowa.org) by June 6, 2025. Please direct any questions to Sydney Sloan ([ssloan@soiowa.org](mailto:ssloan@soiowa.org)) or Katie Wiese ([kwiese@soiowa.org](mailto:kwiese@soiowa.org)) or call (515) 986-5520.**



## COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

Special Olympics Iowa adheres to the highest ideals of sport in the tradition of the Special Olympics movement. The Special Olympics oath, “Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt,” represents the ideal of competition that every Special Olympics athlete tries to achieve.

I understand that my participation in Special Olympics as a coach is a call to excellence for me to teach in ways that bring honor to the athletes and to Special Olympics. I pledge to uphold the spirit of this Code of Conduct, which is only a general guide for my conduct and does not describe all types of good behavior and bad behavior. If I do not obey this Code of Conduct, my Delegation or a Games Organizing Committee may suspend me from Special Olympics, either temporarily or permanently. If I am suspended from Special Olympics, I can appeal the decision in accordance with the attached Special Olympics Appeal Process.

### **Sportsmanship**

- I will practice and instruct the athletes to have good sportsmanship and act in ways that will bring respect to the athletes, my team, Special Olympics and me.
- I will not use abusive language or behavior towards other persons. I will be a good role model and have a positive attitude

### **Training and Competition**

- I will conduct regular training sessions and meet training criteria set by Special Olympics Iowa. I will instruct the athletes to always try their best during training/practice and competitions
- I will instruct the athletes to follow the rules of the sport, and I will encourage and support them, whatever their abilities
- I will not allow the athletes to hold back in divisioning preliminaries in order to be placed in an easier heat in the finals.

### **Personal Responsibility**

- I will not make inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal, or sexual advances on others.
- I will not drink alcohol or use illegal drugs at Special Olympics events.
- I will not smoke in non-smoking areas.
- I will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules.
- I will always hold the athletes’ well-being and safety as my utmost responsibility.

If I violate this Code of Conduct and disagree with my disciplinary action, I agree to follow the Special Olympics Appeal Process and I will accept their decision as final.

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Coach Signature

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Date

**2026 USA Games Coach Application**  
Due to [registration@soiowa.org](mailto:registration@soiowa.org) by June 6, 2025

**Coach Information:**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Olympics Iowa Delegation: \_\_\_\_\_

Sport(s) applying for: \_\_\_\_\_

Head Coach or Assistant Coach (Basketball & Volleyball only) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Basketball and Volleyball coaches need to fill out and submit the Team Roster document.

Have you coached at the USA Games or World Games Level before?      Yes      No

If yes, which Games (years)? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, which Sport? \_\_\_\_\_

How many years of experience do you have working with Special Olympics Athletes? \_\_\_\_\_

How many years of experience do you have in coaching the sport(s) you are applying for? \_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you been coaching for Special Olympics? \_\_\_\_\_

What Special Olympics Coaching education courses have you attended or taken on-line in the past 10 years? (include Sport Specific Trainings, Coaching Special Olympics Athletes, Principles of Coaching and Coaching Unified Sports)

Session	Year Completed

Are you currently certified in any of the following?

Date of Expiration

	Concussion Training	
	First Aid	
	CPR	
	Sign Language	
	Other	



Why do you want to be a coach for Team Iowa at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games?

What specifically do you incorporate into your coaching plans to ensure successful training?

How would you handle an athlete who is homesick while at the USA Games?

Please include a headshot with the application.

**References**

Please include two references including an athlete and a fellow coach. Be certain your references are knowledgeable in your coaching abilities and are willing to speak on your behalf.

**Athlete Reference**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your relationship with this person and how long have you known them?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Coach Reference**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your relationship with this person and how long have you known them?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature**

Please read the following statement and sign below to acknowledge.

The information presented in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Yes, I have carefully read and clearly understand the minimum requirements to be selected as a coach and I am willing to make a full commitment to Team Iowa for the duration of the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games.

I am willing to submit to a criminal background check through Special Olympics Iowa.

I am willing and able to serve as both the sport specific coach and an athlete chaperone for all Team Iowa activities leading up to and during the Games.

I am willing to maintain consistent contact with assigned athletes, their family/guardians, and their local HOD/coach. I am willing to conduct practice sessions with all the athletes selected in the sport I am applying to coach to ensure the athlete is prepared for the competition at the 2026 USA Games.

I understand that if I do not meet all of the requirements, I can be removed from my position within Team Iowa without potential for appeal.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Coach Signature

Date

**Uniform Information**

Please fill in measurements or check the size that would best fit. Fulfillment of size request is based on availability.

Waist \_\_\_\_\_ inches                      Weight \_\_\_\_\_ inches  
 Chest \_\_\_\_\_ inches                      Inseam \_\_\_\_\_ inches  
 Shoe size \_\_\_\_\_ Left \_\_\_\_\_ Right      Hips \_\_\_\_\_ inches

**Female Size Requests**

Please mark requests for all size variations, as we do not yet know how sizes will be offered. Females must also complete section below for any Unisex uniform pieces; or if all Unisex sizes are preferred, complete that section only.

Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL
Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____
Short/Pants	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL
Short/Pants	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____
Jacket	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL
Hat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL

**Unisex/Male Size Requests**

Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL
Short/Pants	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL
Jacket	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL
Hat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL

Please list any additional information that would be helpful in uniforming this coach:

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