



Special Olympics, Inc. has created a policy enforcing mandatory coach's certification for all Accredited Programs. The Special Olympics Oklahoma (SOOK) Board of Directors, through the work of the Board Program Committee, has approved and begun implementation of the following policy for Special Olympics Oklahoma.

Each SOOK Team must have a minimum of one certified coach for each official sport offered by the team. All official sports offered by SOOK will require mandatory coach's certification. An athlete and/or team will not compete in Special Olympics Oklahoma in any sport without being registered and trained by a Special Olympics certified coach within the timeline below.

Certification requirements – A coach must complete Level 1 and Level 2 training in order to become certified. The training Levels are progressive, you must complete Level 1 to take Level 2 and so forth.

Level 1 – ASSISTANT COACH – All Level 1 coaches must complete the Volunteer Application, the Background check, Protective Behaviors Training, Concussion in Sports Training, and the General orientation. All must be renewed every 3 years with the exception of the General Orientation which is good for as long as the coach is active.

Level 2 - CERTIFIED COACH - All Certified coaches must take a sports specific course in every sport they wish to coach. The sports specific course maybe done in person or via zoom and taught by a clinician appointed by SOOK. Certification will last for 4 years, at which time, a Coach may take a recertification class online or advance to Level 3 which will renew all Level 2 certifications the coach has at that time.

Level 3 – ADVANCED CERTIFIED COACH - In addition to requirements for Level 2 Certified Coach, A Coach must take one of the following 4 courses to advance to Level 3. Principles of Coaching, Coaching Unified Sports, Coaching Special Olympics Athletes or Fitness for Sports Coaches. A coach may complete one of these courses to become Level 3 certified. By completing one of these courses it will renew certification for any and all Level 2 courses that coach is certified in at the time they take the course for another 4 years. Any Coach wishing to advance to Level 4 or to become a coach for the USA Games or World Games are required to take all 4 of these courses.

Level 4 – COACH MENTOR - The Coach Mentor program will ask a Level 3 Advanced Certified Coach who has completed all 4 courses available in Level 3, to act as a mentor to a new coach. The Level 3 coach will provide advice on all Special Olympics programs, training, competition and all activities involving Special Olympics to a new coach assigned by SOOK. The Coach Mentor will mentor a new coach for 1 full year, at which time, the Coach Mentor will receive Lifetime certification.