



2026 SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES
Minneapolis, Minnesota

COACH/MENTOR APPLICATION

Basketball Bocce Bowling Cornhole Flag Football
 Golf Powerlifting Swimming Track & Field Soccer YLE

The applicant and his/her County Coordinator or UCS educator will ensure the accuracy of all information and that they both have read the *Team Indiana Handbook*. All applications can be sent to Katie Hilt at khilt@soindiana.org.

APPLICANT INFORMATION *(Please Print Legibly)*

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Gender: Male Female Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone: (_____) _____ Email Address: _____

County Program: _____

Years as Special Olympics Coach: _____ Years as Special Olympics Coach in Sport: _____

Coaching Experience outside Special Olympics: _____

SELECTION CRITERIA

To be eligible for selection to the Team Indiana delegation for the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must be involved in SOIN local county program or UCS program.
- Must be nominated by your County Coordinator or UCS educator
- Must be a Class A volunteer with SO Indiana.
- Must be a Level 2 Coach according to SO Indiana's Coach Education Program.
- Must be in good standing with SO Indiana.
- Read, sign, and submit the *Code of Conduct* form.
- Complete, sign, and submit all required registration forms, medical forms, and other forms as needed.
- Must have the ability to function and be away from home for ten days or more.
- Must possess the skills to be able to function as a part of the delegation (e.g. cooperation, sharing, group living, following directions, basic social skills, good behavior, etc.).
- Must be able to travel long distance and stand for long periods of time on a daily basis (excludes applicants in wheelchairs, but still require the stamina for such activities).
- Must be able to lift 25 pounds.
- Must agree to refrain from the use of alcohol and tobacco products during training camps and USA Games.
- Must participate in all training camps and attend all portions of those camps.
- Must participate in all Team Indiana promotional and fundraising events.
- Must agree to the Team Indiana finance arrangement (as outlined in the *Team Indiana Handbook*).
- Must complete coaching certifications, create training plans, etc., as outlined.
- Mentors for Youth Leadership experience cannot be a family member or guardian of either the athlete or Unified Partner.

By signing below we acknowledge that:

Selection to Team Indiana for the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games is an honor and a privilege. With this privilege comes responsibility. We promise to meet all selection criteria, to complete all required forms and support the Team Indiana delegation as outlined in the *Team Indiana Handbook*. If the Coach should prove unworthy of this honor due to not meeting the selection criteria, we understand that SO Indiana has the authority to release this Coach from Team Indiana.

Signature of County Coordinator

Date

Signature of Applicant

Date



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COACH APPLICATION

COACH REQUIREMENTS

If selected to the Team Indiana delegation for the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games applicants will be required to do the following:

- Be prepared to work with athletes from other counties around the state of Indiana.
- Must be a Class A volunteer with SOIN, according to its Volunteer Management System, which includes:
 - Completed & signed Coach/Volunteer Application,
 - Completed (and passed) criminal background check,
 - Completed Coach/Volunteer Orientation,
 - Completed Online Protective Behaviors training, and
 - Completed Concussion Awareness training.
- Achieve Level 1 & 2 coaching certifications of the SOIN Coach Education Program.
 - *Level 1: Coaching Special Olympics Athletes and Coaching Unified Sports online courses.*
 - *Level 2: Sports-Specific Course (online or in-person)*
- Develop a training plan for athletes and partners (from October 2025 through the Games), utilizing the SOIN Training program and Unified Fitness Club programs.
 - Training plans will be distributed to athletes and partners at the end of Training Camp 1.
 - Coaches will have time during the training camp to adjust plans based on performance during fitness assessments, Healthy Athletes screenings, and camp practices.
 - Coaches must come to the first training camp with a training plan developed with only minor modifications needed at camp.
- Communicate weekly with athletes and partners on training progress and daily nutrition journals.
- Report monthly to the HOD and Training Coordinator on athlete and partner training progress.
 - Provide success stories (i.e. weight loss, personal bests achieved) for promotion.
 - Identify issues and barriers.
 - Work with the HOD and Training Coordinator to address issues and overcome barriers.

The HOD and Training Coordinator will assist in the creation of training plans for athletes and Unified Partners.