



2026 SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

## COACH APPLICATION

Basketball    Bocce    Bowling    Cornhole    Flag Football  
 Golf    Powerlifting    Swimming    Track & Field    Youth Leadership

The applicant and his/her County Coordinator 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 SO Indiana program before August 7, 2024.
- Must be nominated by your County Coordinator.
- 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.

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 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.*