

Role Description

Mental Performance Lead, Special Olympics Team Canada

Special Olympics World Winter Games Torino 2025

Overview:

The National Team Program (NTP) is designed to provide athletes, coaches and mission staff with a formalized approach to training and preparation for World Games. The program ensures that Special Olympics (SO) athletes in Canada have access to quality training, coaching and competitive opportunities to ensure optimal training, performance and a positive experience as members of the Special Olympics Team Canada (SOTC).

A strong team of coaches and mission staff are needed in order to support the athletes through their preparation and at the Games; we encourage both veterans of the program, and newcomers to apply if interested.

Title: Mental Performance Lead

Scope:

The Mental Performance Lead is responsible for the planning, preparation and delivery of a mental performance plan to the Special Olympics Team Canada leading up to and during the Special Olympics World Games.

Accountabilities:

This is a volunteer position accountable to the SOTC Chef de Mission and Team Managers. The Mental Performance Lead also works closely with Special Olympics Canada in the implementation of their duties.

Responsibilities:

Pre-Games

- Act as a role model and conduct yourself within the Special Olympics Team Canada Program Code of Conduct.
- Be familiar with the Athlete Agreement and the roles and responsibilities of the Chef de Mission, Assistant Chef de Mission, Team Managers, Coaches and Mission Staff.
- Design a mental performance plan for the athletes
- Conduct assessment of mental performance needs for the team. Assist in recruitment of and management of additional mental health specialists that can support the team pre-Games.
- Deliver professional development sessions on mental performance to coaches and mission staff
- Attend and participate in SOTC and/or Sport Specific Training Camps.
- Work within the lines of communication set by SO Team Canada Leadership.
- Actively participate in all scheduled meetings as required.

During Games

- Act as a role model and conduct yourself within the SOTC Program Code of Conduct.
- Travel to and from the World Games as part of SOTC.
- House with SO Team Canada delegation in the Athlete's Village for the duration of the World Games.

- Provide mental performance support services to SO Team Canada members.
- Visit sport venues and athlete village(s) to provide mental performance support to athletes when needed.
- Work with SO Team Canada Leadership to determine information flow to Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches as it pertains to mental performance matters.
- Assist with problem solving as it pertains to athletes and coaches.

Post Games

- Participate in a post-Games evaluation process

Qualifications:

- Master's or Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology or similar
- Must be a member in good standing of Special Olympics in Canada.
- Excellent communication, organizational and administrative skills
- Experience in crisis management
- Strong interpersonal and problem-solving skills
- Knowledge of Special Olympics in Canada
- Experience working in a multi-sport Games setting is an asset
- Experience working with individuals with an intellectual disability is an asset
- Ability to work in a flexible, team environment
- Communication (verbal and written) in both English and French is an asset

Training Requirements

- Special Olympics Canada Orientation Course - **TRAINED**
- Make Ethical Decisions (NCCP) - **EVALUATED**
- Safe Sport Training (CAC)
- Current Criminal Record Check (obtained within past 2 years)

This role is expected to be available for the following time commitments (may be subject to change):

- June 7-9, 2024 (in-person) – Team Leadership, Mission Staff, Head Coaches & Assistant Coaches Meeting
- TBD early December 2024 (in-person) – 3 day sport training camp
- TBD late January 2025 (in-person) – 3 day sport training camp
- March 4-17, 2025 (in-person) – Staging Camp & World Games
- Monthly evening virtual Mission Staff meetings
- Monthly sport specific virtual meetings (schedule dependent by sport and chosen by Mission Staff and Head Coaches)
- Ongoing professional development virtual sessions

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 11:59PM EST, SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2024

Application process:

Interested applicants will be required to submit an electronic application via <https://specialolympics.jotform.com/233515574088260> prior to the deadline. Please be prepared to submit the following information when applying:

- NCCP number
- Confirmation of a valid passport, or commitment to renewal
- Previous experience (Special Olympics and non) surrounding the role
- Answers for a few short questions around why you are interested in the role
- Confirmation that you are available to attend all in-person dates mentioned above

January 2024

Following the deadline, all applications will be review by the National Team Program Committee (NTP-C), comprised of SOC sport leadership staff, the Chef and Assistant Chef selected for the team, and Special Olympics volunteers and staff selected to the committee with past Games experience. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated based on the following process:

1. Endorsement from local SO Chapter
2. Based on endorsements and review of initial applications, the NTP-C will invite a select group of applicants to participate in a virtual interview. There will be a set of pre-interview questions sent to the candidate to complete.
3. Following the interview, the NTP-C will evaluate both the virtual interview and submitted questions to name the successful candidates. Evaluation will be based primarily on the following areas (listed in order of importance):
 1. Ability to communicate in multiple languages (including English, French, ASL, host country language)
 2. Special Olympics experience in similar role(s)
 3. Communication and technology proficiency
 4. Leadership, teamwork and conflict resolution skills
 5. Enthusiasm and passion for Special Olympics
 6. Proven understanding of role and vision of involvement to team
4. Following the interview, the NTP-C will communicate timelines on when successful candidates will be made aware of their final decisions