

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC POLICY MANUAL

Section: **SPORT**
Policy: **Athlete-to-Coach Ratio**
Effective Date: January 2012
Revised: June 2023
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Special Olympics BC programs and competitions must meet the minimum required athlete-to-coach ratio as detailed herein. Should a program be unable to meet that ratio for two weeks or more, the program will be discontinued until such time as the ratio can be met.

All programs, with the exception of 5- and 10-pin bowling and bocce, must have 75% of the ratio met by trained coaches and 25% of the ratio met by program volunteers for training programs. 5- and 10-pin bowling and bocce must have 50% of the ratio met by trained coaches and 50% of the ratio met by program volunteers for training programs. For competition, 100% of the ratio must be met by trained coaches. Zero per cent of the ratio may be filled by athletes who are Program Mentors.

SPORT	RATIO/PROGRAM	RATIO/COMPETITION
5-pin bowling	5 – 1	1 coach per team
10-pin bowling	8 – 1	4 – 1
Alpine skiing	3 – 1	3 – 1
Aquatics	6 – 1	4 – 1
Athletics	6 – 1	4 -1
Basketball	6 – 1	3 coaches per team
Bocce	6 – 1	1 coach per team
Cross-country skiing	3 – 1	3 – 1
Curling	5 – 1	2 coaches per team
Figure skating	3 – 1	3 – 1
Floor hockey	6 – 1	3 coaches per team
Golf	4 – 1	4 – 1
Powerlifting	4 – 1 (with a minimum of two coaches)	4 – 1
Rhythmic gymnastics	6 – 1	4 – 1
Snowshoeing	6 – 1	3 – 1

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Soccer	6 – 1	3 coaches per team
Softball	6 – 1	3 coaches per team
Speed skating	6 – 1	3 – 1

Note: These are minimum standards. The abilities and needs of the athletes must be assessed to determine if the number of coaches/program volunteers to athletes should be increased. In some cases, a ratio of one coach/program volunteer to athlete may be required.

The following ratios will be in effect at these programs:

PROGRAM	RATIO
Active Start	2 leaders per program
FUNdamentals	3 – 1
Club Fit	8 – 1 (with a minimum of two coaches)
Fit Families & Friends	6 – 1 leader/parent/caregiver

Parents register as program volunteers for the Active Start program as this is a parent participation program.