
Special Olympics NWT provides programs for NWT individuals with an intellectual disability as set forth by International Guiding Principles. No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of Special Olympics NWT on the grounds of gender, age, race, religion, colour, national origin or financial constraint.

IDENTIFICATION

A person is generally considered to have an intellectual disability if that person has, from childhood, significantly sub-average intellectual functioning which limits participation and performance in several aspects of daily life such as communication, self-care, home living, functioning at school or work, or personal independence.

For the purposes of this policy, intellectual disability is defined by Special Olympics Canada¹ as follows:

Individuals must have both a current intellectual deficit and a deficit in adaptive functioning with onset during the developmental period. All three of the following criteria must be met.

1. Intellectual deficit, as measured by an Intelligence Quotient (IQ), below the population mean for a person's age and cultural group, which is typically an IQ score of approximately 70 or below;
2. Significant limitations in adaptive functioning in one or more aspects of daily life activities such as: communication, social participation, self-care, self-direction, functioning at school or at work, independence at home or in community settings; and
3. Onset during the developmental period (before 18 years of age).

¹ Taken from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV 2000)*; published by the American Psychiatric Association and used by professionals in Canada for determining development diagnoses.

Flexibility is left to the Special Olympics NWT Sport Program Coordinator to determine the eligibility of the participant because of the variety of situations and needs that exist in different communities. Inclusion is preferred to exclusion when eligibility is in question, and it is at the discretion of Special Olympics NWT to determine suitability for Special Olympics participation within the Chapter. Athletes may be able to participate in program activities, but may not necessarily be eligible to compete in the Special Olympics Canada four-year competitive cycle.

Individuals who have an intellectual disability and one or more other disabilities may participate in Special Olympics.

The above was approved by the Special Olympics NWT Board

President:

Date:  October 5, 2015

AGE REQUIREMENT

There is no maximum age limitation for participation in Special Olympics. The minimum age requirement for participation in any Special Olympics NWT sport program is twelve years of age, and in any Special Olympics competition is thirteen years of age. The young athlete programs introduce children, two to eleven years old to the world of sport.

SPORT RATIO

In order to participate in Special Olympics NWT sport programs, athletes must be able to take part within the standard coach/athlete ratio as set out in Special Olympics Canada sport technical requirements. The ratios are: 1 coach to 4 athletes for summer sports (eg. golf, athletics, aquatics, rhythmic gymnastics); 1 coach to 3 athletes for winter sports (eg. speed skating, figure skating, snowshoeing) and the young athlete programs; and 1 coach to 5 athletes for 5-pin bowling.

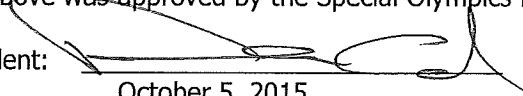
If an athlete requires a greater level of supervision and support than the standard ratio for a particular sport to fully participate and to ensure the safety of themselves and others, special arrangements must be made ahead of time with the Sport Program Coordinator.

If Special Olympics NWT is unable to provide enough coaches/volunteers to supervise an athlete who cannot participate within the ratio, the athlete will be required to have a support person in attendance who is able to participate with them in all practices, competitions and events. This support person will not be considered to be a coach, or be included in the coach/athlete ratio.

The above was approved by the Special Olympics NWT Board

President:

Date:


October 5, 2015

SECTION: Sport
TOPIC: Coaching Qualifications
Effective Date: September 2015
Revised Date:

T3005

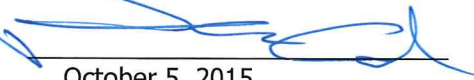
Special Olympics NWT believes that every athlete has the right to a trained and qualified coach. All coaches registered with SONWT are assisted to obtain training appropriate for their position.

Special Olympics NWT has different qualification requirements depending on the role of the coach/volunteer:

- Head Coach
- Coach
- volunteer
- Program Assistant

The above was approved by the Special Olympics NWT Board

President:

Date: 
October 5, 2015

SECTION: Sport
TOPIC: Coaching Qualifications
Effective Date: September 2015
Revised Date:

M3005

All coaches must be a minimum of 16 years old. Coaches under the age of 18 must be supervised by someone who is 18 years of age or older. All coaches must complete a criminal record check.

All coaches must register as a volunteer with Special Olympics NWT.

All coaches must meet the established required skills in the coaching qualifications below. Coaches have a two year period to obtain the required skills.

- Head Coaches must have sport specific technical training in addition to SOC coach education (community or competition workshop) and Making Ethical Decisions (online evaluation).
- Coaches must have SOC coach education (community or competition workshop)
- Program Volunteers and Assistants must have completed all elements of orientation with Special Olympics NWT.

Coaches will be encouraged to have basic first aid training.

Special Olympics NWT has the responsibility to determine the suitability of all potential coaches. Failing to fulfill coach responsibilities will cause the volunteer to relinquish their duties as a coach with this organization.

In the case where an individual qualifies as a program assistant and as an athlete, they will choose to participate as either a program assistant or athlete at practices, events or competitions.

Exceptions to any required skills to be approved on an individual basis by Special Olympics NWT.

The above was approved by Special Olympics NWT Management

Executive Director: _____

Date: October 5, 2015

SECTION: Sport
TOPIC: Sports Classification
Effective Date: September 2015
Revised Date:

T3010

Special Olympics NWT will observe Special Olympics Canada's designation of official and demonstration sport status.

OFFICIAL SPORTS

Summer Sports

Aquatics (Swimming)
Athletics
5-Pin Bowling
10-Pin Bowling
Powerlifting
Rhythmic Gymnastics
Soccer
Softball
Basketball
Bocce
Golf

Winter Sports

Alpine Skiing
Figure Skating
Floor Hockey
Nordic (Cross Country) Skiing
Snowshoeing
Speed Skating
Curling

Demonstration

Summer Sports

Winter Sports

Endorsement is assumed for programs offering Special Olympics Canada official and demonstration sports. Special Olympics NWT reserves the right to limit programs or events from offering unofficial sports.

PROHIBITED SPORTS

Special Olympics NWT may prohibit sports or events that have been determined not to meet the minimum health and safety standards of Special Olympics Canada and/or Special Olympics International or are potential danger to its athletes

Sport

Athletics
Aquatics
Gymnastics
Nordic Skiing
All Contact Sports
Others

Prohibited Event

Javelin, Hammer Throw, Pole Vault, Triple Jump, Discus
Platform Dives
Trampoline
Biathlon, Nordic Jumping
Martial Arts, Wrestling, Karate, Boxing, Rugby, American Football
Fencing, Shooting

The above was approved by the Special Olympics NWT Board

President: 

Date: October 5, 2015

SECTION: Sport
TOPIC: Sports Program Management
Effective Date: September 2015
Revised Date:

T3015

Athletes are entitled to quality programs, where possible in the community they live in.

NEW SPORT PROGRAM START-UP

Before the start-up of a new sport program, the territorial office will undertake a review that covers the following areas:

- Effect on current and prospective athletes
- Effect on current and prospective volunteers/coaches
- Effect on current programs
- Effect on budget/finances and other resources of the affiliate
- Potential conflict with existing sport program
- Consideration for competitive and demonstration opportunities
- Consideration for recognition of official, demonstration or prohibited sports

SPORT PROGRAM DISCONTINUATION/CANCELLATION

Special Olympics NWT will undertake a review prior to cancelling an athlete sport program including:

- Reasons for closure of the program (financial, time, interest, etc)
- Effect on current athletes (what other opportunities do they have, number of athletes affected, etc.)

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND NEW SPORT DEVELOPMENT OPERATED BY SPECIAL OLYMPICS NWT

Special Olympics NWT reserves the right to start and operate community programs, pilot projects and initiatives for underdeveloped sports.

The above was approved by the Special Olympics NWT Board

President: 

Date: October 5, 2015

SECTION: Sport
TOPIC: New Program Start Up
Effective Date: September 2015
Revised Date:

M3015

In order to start an athlete program or sport that is not currently operating in a community, the program must:

- Be officially affiliated with Special Olympics NWT
- Be authorized by the Executive Director
- Meet basic criteria including but not limited to: interested and available athletes, committee and confirmed volunteers, confirmed facilities, confirmed budget, potential conflict with existing sport programs
- Be consistent with the mission, vision, bylaws and policies of Special Olympics NWT

If the sport program to be established or piloted is not an official or demonstration sport as defined in SONWT policy, the Executive Director will ensure that there is consistency with SONWT policy and the sport is not on the prohibited list of sports.

The above was approved by Special Olympics NWT Management

Executive Director: 

Date: October 5, 2015

SECTION: Sport
TOPIC: Personal Safety
Effective Date: September 2015
Revised Date:

T3020

Special Olympics NWT puts the safety and well-being of athletes, volunteers and staff at the forefront of program delivery and territorial office services.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Programs may be cancelled when temperatures exceed the following:

- Indoor activities: indoor temperature in sports facility is below -30 degrees Celsius
- Outdoor activities: temperature (including windchill) is below -35 or above +30 degrees Celsius

The temperatures listed are to be used as a guidelines and not an absolute. Depending on other weather factors, a program can be cancelled, in consultation with the Sport Program Coordinator, if the Head Coach believes athlete safety is compromised.

Once the decision has been made to cancel a program session, that decision must be communicated to all registered members of the sport. Each program should have a process in place to communicate these decisions. Notification to athletes and volunteers must be confirmed. Failure to contact all parties requires attendance at the start of the program by the head coach or designate.

If there is a disagreement about whether a program session should be cancelled, the Sport Program Coordinator will have the final call.

ALLERGIES

In the event that a severe allergy is identified for a registered athlete, coach or volunteer or for staff, Special Olympics NWT will endorse the ban of the allergen from a program, competition or sanctioned event in order to protect the health and safety of those persons affected.

The decision to ban an allergen is at the discretion of the head coach and team manager, in consultation with the SONWT Office.

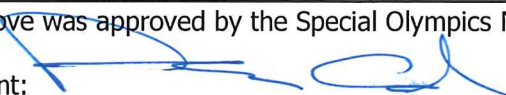
EMERGENCY PLANS

Each sport will have an emergency plan to deal with evacuation of the facility if necessary during a practice or competition.

The above was approved by the Special Olympics NWT Board

President:

Date:


October 5, 2015

SECTION: Sport
TOPIC: Transportation
Effective Date: September 2015
Revised Date:

T3025

Transportation of athletes by Special Olympics registered volunteers or staff is limited to travel to, from or during competitions or Special Olympics events pre-authorized by the Executive Director.

Special Olympics NWT is not responsible or liable for whatever method of transportation or travel athletes or volunteers use to get to and from Special Olympics programs and events unless specifically addressed in a travel plan issued by the Special Olympics NWT office for a competition/event.

Volunteers are strongly discouraged from transporting athletes and do so at their own risk and liability unless required to in an authorized Special Olympics NWT travel plan.

The above was approved by the Special Olympics NWT Board

President: 

Date: October 5, 2015

SECTION: Sport
TOPIC: Vehicle Transportation
Effective Date: September 2015
Revised Date:

M3025

QUALIFIED DRIVERS

Only Special Olympics NWT registered volunteers and staff, age 19 and over, are considered qualified drivers under Special Olympics NWT when driving for Special Olympics purposes for insurance and risk management.

NON-OWNED/RENTAL VEHICLES FOR TRANSPORTING 7 OR LESS OCCUPANTS

Only Special Olympics NWT registered volunteers and staff, age 25 and over, are qualified to transport 7 or less individuals, including athletes, volunteers and staff, for Special Olympics purposes to programs, competitions or sanctioned Special Olympics events in a Special Olympics NWT rental vehicle.

The rental vehicle must be signed for with the phrase after your signature, "for Special Olympics", to qualify as a Special Olympics NWT rental vehicle for insurance purposes.

The driver must have a valid driver's license and purchase adequate insurance for the vehicle being driven in accordance with local traffic rules.

PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES FOR TRANSPORTING 7 OR LESS OCCUPANTS

Any Special Olympics NWT registered volunteer or staff, age 19 and over, transporting 7 or less individuals, including athletes, volunteers and staff, for Special Olympics purposes to programs, competitions or sanctioned Special Olympics events in a privately owned vehicle, must have a valid drivers license and valid insurance coverage. Special Olympics Canada covers registered volunteers and staff for 3rd party liability claims only.

Transporting 8 or more occupants should be made by the Territorial office to ensure proper driver requirements and adequate insurance needs are met.

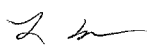
The following considerations should be taken when transporting athletes:

- Ensure proper supervision of athletes/individuals in the vehicle
- Ensure that the ride is approved by the parent/caregiver
- Ensure that the ride is given directly to the agreed upon location.

The above was approved by Special Olympics NWT Management

Executive Director: _____

Date:


October 5, 2015

SECTION: Sport
TOPIC: Integrated Opportunities
Effective Date: September 2015
Revised Date:

T3035

Special Olympics NWT recognizes, supports and encourages participation in integrated sport training and competition.


Athletes who train in a Special Olympics NWT program may also chose to train in a generic sport program. In NWT communities where Special Olympics NWT does not have sufficient interested athletes to establish an Special Olympics NWT sport program, a partnership may be established which allows an SO athlete to participate in integrated training in a generic program.

Where feasible, registered athletes will have the opportunity to compete in integrated competitions and demonstrations.

The above was approved by the Special Olympics NWT Board

President:

Date:


October 5, 2015