

SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAM USA
2015 SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD SUMMER GAMES
Head Coach Job Description

The mission of Special Olympics Team U.S.A. is to provide for the leadership and management of a united national team of delegates, athletes and coaches from all eligible U.S. Programs, delivering a quality athlete experience through participation in World Games.

Job Description

Volunteer Position Title: Head Coach

Sports: Aquatics, Athletics, Bocce, Bowling, Cycling, Equestrian, Golf, Artistic Gymnastics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Kayaking, Powerlifting, Sailing, and Tennis

**** Team USA will NOT be selecting a Head Coach for team sports – coaches & teams come together.***

Accountability: The Head Coach is accountable to the Head of Delegation of Team USA. The Head Coach works closely with the Sport Manager on all sport matters related to the training, preparation and competition of Team USA athletes.

Reports to: Sport Manager for respective sport

Position Summary: Each Head Coach will be appointed by the Management Team to organize, prepare, and provide technical and administrative support to the athletes and coaches of their respective sport, from the time of their selection through the post-Games Debrief. The Head Coach is in frequent communication with their Assistant Sport Coaches. Each Head Coach is to ensure the athletes and coaches of Team USA experience the athletic, physical, cultural and social benefits of participating in a World Games.

Qualifications

All Head Coaches MUST have:

- 5 years coaching experience in your respective sport;
- Current Special Olympics certification in your respective sport;
- Current Special Olympics Class A Volunteer and certification in Protective Behaviors on file with your US Program;
- Technical knowledge obtained through experiences beyond Special Olympics in the specific sport you are interested in coaching;
- Knowledge of your respective sport, along with an understanding of the psychological and physiological demands placed on its competitors;
- Knowledge of the Special Olympics Inc. sport specific rules;
- Experience with the development and implementation of seasonal plans;
- Exceptional leadership abilities;
- Excellent communication, organizational and administrative skills;
- An ability to work as a team member within the guidelines of the Team USA management structure;

SPORTSMANSHIP * TEAMWORK * ACCOUNTABILITY * INTEGRITY * RESPECT

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- Understand and accept the fundamental goals of Team USA;
- Experience coaching Special Olympics athletes at a State/Regional level;
- Experience coaching at a National/World Games level preferred but not required;
- The ability to work with and support athletes of all ability levels within your sport;
- Additional National Governing Body certifications are an asset;
- CPR and first aid certification by Training Camp, 2014; and
- Written endorsement of your US Special Olympics Program President/CEO.

Essential Responsibilities (include but are not limited to the following):

Pre-games

- Ensure that all athletes within your sport are training and being trained appropriately.
- Work within the lines of communication as set by Team USA to provide and receive information. This includes checking email regularly for communication from your Sport Manager and forwarding the information to your Assistant Coaches.
- Actively prepare for and participate in the Team USA Training Camp (October 1-7, 2014)
- Actively participate in all scheduled meetings and conference calls as needed
- Provide an open line of communication between yourself and all assistant coaches. This may include, but is not limited to, daily emails, conference calls, and mailings to meet the different needs of your assistant coaches.
- Act as a role model and conduct yourself within the Team USA Code of Conduct.

During World Games:

- Ensure that during competition, rules are being enforced appropriately and that Team USA athletes within your sport are being judged fairly.
- Represent Team USA as the lead spokesperson for your sport. This includes giving training and technical leadership, attending coaches meetings, leading Team USA coaches meetings within your sport, and communicating with Sports Manager/Management Team regarding any issues within your sport.
- Assist the Sport Manager in the respective sport in case of protests and reports of any rule discrepancies. If necessary, file any protests appropriately within the framework provided by the GOC.
- Act as a role model and conduct yourself within the Team USA Code of Conduct.
- Assist with chaperoning athletes as necessary to ensure the appropriate supervision of all athletes at all times. This could also include responsibilities outside of your respective sport, (ie. chaperoning athletes from your home state while traveling to/from training camp and Games), as well as being aware of any scheduled athlete-family visits during Games.
- Promote sportsmanship in representing the USA.

Post Games:

- Participate in an evaluation process of Team USA.

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Time Commitment

- Serve and fulfill responsibilities from the time of your appointment to Team USA through the completion of World Games and the post Games evaluation process.
- Games-time – All Head Coaches will be expected to travel to the Games site (including Host Town) with the delegation and stay the entire length of the Games through the arrival back to your home state.
- Conference calls –participate in regularly scheduled conference calls through post-Games
- Training Camps –attend National Training Camp, October 1-7, 2014, Indianapolis, Indiana, to evaluate the coaches and athletes viability during Games time

Financial Compensation: Individuals and US Programs are not expected to cover all expenses associated with serving as a Head Coach for Special Olympics Team USA. You are encouraged to meet with your US Program President and CEO to discuss use of their office, phones, computer and office supplies to support your role as Head Coach. Mailings can be sent via Special Olympics North America staff but need to be approved in advance by the Management Team Directors.

Deadline – June 27, 2014