

**Athlete Leaders & Games Organizing Committees
(GOC)
Frequently Asked Questions & Answers**

Special Olympics
Pennsylvania



Q: What are the requirements for an Athlete Representative to serve on a GOC?

A: In order to serve on a GOC, Athlete Representatives must:

- Have completed Athlete Representative I at Athlete Leadership University.
- Be able to communicate via phone and e-mail.
- Be able to find transportation to / from meetings and the event.
- Live within reasonable driving distance (one hour or less) from meetings and the event.

Q: Who selects Athlete Representatives to serve on a GOC and how are they selected?

A: Special Olympics Pennsylvania's Athlete Leadership Coordinator identifies candidates based on the requirements listed above. Each candidate is interviewed via phone to ensure all the requirements are being met.

In order to serve on a GOC, priority consideration is given to Athlete Representatives not competing at the event so that they can serve in a meaningful volunteer role at the event and not just provide input during meetings. If no non-competing Athlete Representatives are in the area of the event that would be appropriate, then competing Athlete Representatives are allowed to attend meetings.

Q: Are Athlete Representatives and Athlete Representatives Mentors expected to attend every GOC Meeting?

A: Yes, however if personal circumstances (i.e.: work, school, etc.) impact attendance, then Athlete Representatives and Athlete Representatives Mentors are asked if they could attend every other meeting.

Q: Are Athlete Representatives serving on a GOC required to be chaperoned during the event?

A: Yes, for safety reasons, Special Olympics Pennsylvania requires all athletes (competing and non-competing) to be chaperoned by Class A Volunteers.

If the Athlete Representatives' Mentor is not available during the event, the Athlete Representatives serving on a GOC is to be chaperoned by another GOC member until the Athlete Representative's local program is able to include them within the 4:1 ratio.

Q: How long is an Athlete Representative's term on the GOC?

A: Athlete Representatives serving on a GOC are given the same treatment as other members. Succession plans are to be developed by the GOC and SOPA competition liaison.

Q: Who is responsible for selecting Global Messengers in emcee and speaker roles for Opening Ceremonies, Closing Ceremonies, President's Reception, etc.?

A: Special Olympics Pennsylvania's Athlete Leadership Coordinator is responsible for selecting Global Messengers for different speaking roles based on the needs requested.

These selections are made once roster reports are completed within the SOPA database. Global Messengers are selected at least two weeks in advance to allow appropriate time needed to review the script or write their own speech.

SOPA staff and GOC Members may suggest Global Messengers for different speaking roles; however final selection is made by Special Olympics Pennsylvania's Athlete Leadership Coordinator

If you have any questions that are not on this list, please contact Athlete Leadership Coordinator, Jordan Schubert at 610-630-9450 ext. 236 or jschubert@specialolympicspa.org.