

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS COLORADO**  
**2026 SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES**  
*Head Coach/Coach Job Description*

**The mission of Special Olympics Team Colorado is to provide leadership and management of delegates, athletes and coaches from Colorado, delivering a quality athlete experience through participation in Special Olympics USA Games.**

**Job Description**

**Volunteer Position Title:** Head Coach/Coach

**Reports to:** Team Colorado Head of Delegation, Susan Foege

**Position Summary:** The Head Coach/Coach will be appointed by the Team Colorado Staff to organize, prepare, and provide communication and administrative leadership and coaching to the athletes and coaches of their respective sport, from the time of selection through the post-Games debrief. Each Head Coach/Coach is to ensure the athletes and coaches for their sport delegation experience the athletic, physical, cultural and social benefits of participating in a Special Olympics USA Games. The Head Coach/Coach's role is to support the sport delegation in all aspects.

**Positions Available:**

Athletics (1)  
Bocce (1)  
Bowling (1)  
Golf (2)  
Powerlifting (1)  
Swimming (1)  
Tennis (1)  
Gymnastics (1)  
Soccer (to be selected with the team)  
Flag Football (to be selected with the team)  
Soccer (to be selected with the team)

The 2026 Special Olympics USA Games will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from June 20 – 26, 2026. Support will be focused on all aspects of preparation for USA Games with specific job duties, but not limited to, identified below:

**Qualifications**

All coaches **MUST** have:

- Current Special Olympics Class A application and Background Check on file with Special Olympics Colorado
- Current Level 1 and 2 Special Olympics Colorado coach certification
- 2 years coaching experience in your respective sport
- Ability to serve as both a sport specific assistant coach and an athlete chaperone for all Team Colorado/USA Games activities leading up to and during the Games. This includes 24/7 supervision of athletes during travels, at training camp and Games time.
- Knowledge of your respective sport, along with an understanding of the psychological and physiological demands placed on its competitors

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- Knowledge of the Special Olympics International (SOI) sport specific rules
- Exceptional leadership and motivational abilities
- Excellent communication, organizational and administrative skills
- An ability to work as a team member within the guidelines of the Team Colorado structure
- Experience coaching Special Olympics athletes at a State/Regional level;
- The ability to work with and support athletes of all ability levels within your sport
- CPR and first aid certification by Training Camp, March 2026
- Must abide by the Coach Code of Conduct
- Must be able to supervise the distribution of prescribed medication to athletes (if appropriate)
- Must be willing to maintain ongoing contact with assigned athletes, their family/guardians, and their local coach.
- Endorsement of your Special Olympics Colorado Regional Manager

**Preferred Qualifications**

- Technical knowledge obtained through experiences beyond Special Olympics in the specific sport you are interested in coaching is valuable.
- Additional National Governing Body certifications are an asset.
- Experience with the development and implementation of training plans leading up to the games

**Essential Responsibilities (but not limited to the following)**

**Pre-games**

- Ensure that all athletes within your sport are training and being trained appropriately.
- Work within the guidelines of communication as set by Team Colorado to provide and receive information. This includes checking email regularly for communication from Team Colorado Head of Delegation/Asst. Head of Delegation and forwarding the information to your sport athletes, family members and local coaches.
- Actively prepare for and participate in the Team Colorado Training Camp in Spring of 2026.
- Provide an open line of communication between yourself and Team Colorado. 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 Special Olympics Code of Conduct.

**During 2026 Special Olympics USA Games:**

- Ensure that during competition, rules are being enforced appropriately and that Team Colorado athletes within your sport are being judged fairly.
- Head Coach - Represent Team Colorado as the lead spokesperson for your sport. This includes giving training and technical leadership, attending coach meetings, leading Team Colorado coach meetings within your sport, and communicating with Head of Delegation/Asst. Head of Delegation regarding any issues within your sport.
- Act as a role model and conduct yourself within the Special Olympics Code of Conduct.

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- Assist with chaperoning athletes to ensure the appropriate supervision of all athletes. This could also include responsibilities outside of your respective sport, (i.e. chaperoning athletes from your local region 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 Colorado

**Post Games:**

- Participate in an evaluation process of Team Colorado

**Time Commitment**

- Serve and fulfill responsibilities from the time of your appointment to Team Colorado through the completion of USA Games and the post-Games evaluation process.
- During the Games - All Coaches will be expected to travel to the USA Games site with Team Colorado 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 Camp – Attend Team Colorado Training Camp in Spring 2026 to prepare athletes and coaches for USA Games.

Training Camp – Spring 2026, TBD, CO

USA Games – June 20 – 26, Minneapolis, MN

**Financial Compensation:** This is an unpaid, volunteer position. Individuals are not expected to cover expenses associated with serving as a member of Special Olympics Team Colorado, however, are asked to participate in fundraising activities supported by SOCO to contribute to covering the costs associated with sending Team Colorado to USA Games. You are encouraged to meet with your Regional Manager to discuss use of their office, phones, computer and office supplies to support your role. Purchases made on behalf of Team Colorado are eligible for reimbursement only if approved in advance by Special Olympic Colorado Head of Delegation. These purchases must be in direct support of your specific sport. Mailing may also be sent via Special Olympics Colorado staff but need to be approved in advance by the Team Colorado Head of Delegation.

**Application Deadline:**  
**Please complete the application by March 24, 2025.**