

Dear Coach,

I wanted to say thank you for what you do. Without coaches, Special Olympics Ohio would not be able to give our athletes a proper avenue to compete in sports. You as a coach have a phenomenal opportunity to learn from and with our athletes. I want to challenge you and highlight Section 2 of Article 1 from the SOI Sports rules:

“Special Olympics athletes have the right to be provided with sports training that: Is led by competent coaches who are knowledgeable about the sport and Special Olympics, and have the ability to work effectively with people who have intellectual disabilities. Developing their sports skill and physical fitness prepares them adequately for competition”

Please take that as a challenge to learn more about the sport and develop your athletes in their athletic abilities. As John Wooden once said, “It’s what you learn after you know it all that counts.”

With that, I have put together all the baseline credentials that ALL Special Olympics Ohio coaches must complete.

Make sure too that you use the same name and email for all your certifications. *Example:* if your full name is John Dear Doe, I can either put John Doe or John Dear Doe but we want to keep names consistent across all platforms.

- Kyle Simmonds – Manager, Coaches Education and Competition

Sport Assistant Level Certifications



General Orientation

This course only needs to be done once, and you must score a 15/15 on the final quiz. We want you to get a basic understanding of our mission here at Special Olympics Ohio.

[General Orientation - Slides \(updated 1.23.26\) \(1\).pdf](#)



Background Check

This must be done every 3 years. You are welcome to do it again before it expires so you can stay on top of it. Background Checks must be done through us. If you need it done before an event it **MUST** be done a minimum of 10 days before the event.

<https://airtable.com/app4KL40iMkuGoFCO/shrFlx7YPSDjeXuZ0>



Special Olympics Learning Portal (LMS)

Sports Homepage - Sports & Games – Through this page you will have to set up an account to be able to take the HEADS-UP Concussion Course, Protective Behaviors, Coaching Special Olympics Athletes, and Special Olympics Unified Sports Coaching Course.



HEADS UP Concussion

This must be done every three years. If you have ever had a concussion or known someone who has had one, you will understand the importance of this course.

<https://elearn.specialolympics.org/sports/learn/course/234/heads-up-coaches-concussions-in-youth-sports>



Protective Behaviors

<https://elearn.specialolympics.org/sports/learn/courses/228/protective-behaviors>

Additional Required Courses for Assistant Coaches and Head Coaches:



Coaching Special Olympics Athletes

This course prepares coaches to effectively support and develop Special Olympics athletes through inclusive, athlete-centered coaching practices. This is a one-time course.

[Coaching Special Olympics Athletes - Sports & Games](#)



Special Olympics Unified Sports Coaching Course

Though this course is designed for Unified Sports, there are great lessons throughout the course about fostering a more inclusive environment.

This is a one-time course. [Sport: Special Olympics Unified Sports Coaching Course - Special Olympics Unified Sports Coaching Course](#)

Again, I want to say thank you to all coaches for the work that you do. If you have any questions or want to introduce yourself, feel free to reach out to me anytime using the information below.

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