



Special Olympics *Virginia*

Coach Certification Process

1. All coaches must complete the Special Olympics General Orientation training. The General Orientation can be taken on-line.
2. All coaches must take the Protective Behaviors training. The Protective Behaviors training can be taken on-line.
3. Coaches with no sports background take a skills course in the sport that they coach.

OR

Coaches with sports background take Coaching Special Olympics Athletes.

4. Coaches submit a completed certification form, with the exception of the 10-hour practicum information, to the course clinician.
5. After taking one of the courses in Step 3 coaches, complete a 10-hour practicum with Special Olympics Virginia athletes.
6. At the end of each sport season, SOVA staff will complete the 10-hour practicum information on submitted certification forms based on information provided on submitted RTP forms.
7. Coaches receive a certification card valid for four years and a gift.
8. To maintain certification, coaches must take one of the courses listed below every four years. A 10-hour practicum is not required.
 - Special Olympics Skills Course (sport specific training)
 - Principles of Coaching Course
 - Coaching Special Olympics Athletes Seminar
 - Special Olympics Tactics Course
 - Special Olympics Comprehensive Mentoring
 - First-Aid and CPR Course
 - Officials Training or Rules Updates
 - Managing Athlete Behavior
 - Education Updates (New Training Techniques; Safety Issues; Appropriate Techniques, etc.)
 - National Governing Body Courses; Other Sports Organizations' Coaching Courses
 - Positive Coaching Alliance – Double Gold Course