



## Coaching Education & Development Progression

While some volunteers may choose to remain a Sport Volunteer, others may strive to increase their level coaching and sports specific knowledge. Volunteers who wish to increase their coaching skills can progress through the levels of certification outlined below.

### SPORT VOLUNTEER (*Sport Assistant*)

#### (Entry Level Requirements)

- Class A Form / Complete Background Check
- Special Olympics General Orientation
- Protective Behaviors Training
- Concussion Course

### ASSISTANT COACH (*Level 1 – Certified Coach*)

#### (Core Coaching Knowledge)

#### Traditional Special Olympics

- All Sport Volunteer requirements
- Coaching Special Olympics Athletes
  - *online course via Human Kinetics Coach Education (formerly ASEP) or in person training conducted by certified trainer*

#### Unified Sports

- All Sport Volunteer requirements
- Coaching Unified Sports
  - *online course via NFHS or in person training conducted by a certified trainer*

### HEAD COACH (*Level 2 – Certified Coach*)\*

#### (Sports Specific Knowledge)

#### Traditional Special Olympics

- All Assistant Coach (Level 1) requirements
- Sport Specific Course
  - *online for those sports where online courses have been developed or in-person sport specific training (must be hosted or approved by SOMD)*

#### Unified Sports

- All Assistant Coach (Level 1) requirements
- Sport Specific Course
  - *online for those sports where online courses have been developed or in-person sport specific training (must be hosted or approved by SOMD)*

\* **NOTE:** *Level required of coaches bringing sports teams to any SOMD competition in the specific sport being coached.*

**Fitness Coach Course** – *online or in person training conducted by certified trainer*

**NOTE:** *Option to become a certified Fitness Coach is not sport specific, but general knowledge applicable to all sports.*

### ADVANCED COACH (*Level 3 – Certified Coach*)

#### (Advanced Coaching Knowledge)

- All Head Coach (Level 2) requirements
- Principles of Coaching Course – *online via WVU or in person training conducted by a certified trainer*

## **SOMD Coaching Education & Development Progression (con't)**

### **Additional Notes**

- All certifications must be achieved prior to the start of the sports season and valid thru the end of that season's state championship in order to be valid for that season.\*\*
- "Sport Volunteer" certification is required to be registered as a volunteer within any sports training program and as a volunteer in a delegation to any SOMD competition.
- "Assistant Coach" certification is required to be registered as a coach within any sports training program and as a coach in a delegation to any SOMD competition.
- "Head Coach" certification is required to be registered as a head coach within any sports training program and as a head coach in a delegation to any SOMD competition.
- Each delegation registering for an SOMD competition must have a minimum of one certified Head Coach in each sport for which they have entered competitors. For team sports (basketball, cheerleading, flag football, soccer, softball) a delegation must have a certified Head Coach for each registered team.

*\*\*For the 2019 season for Summer Games sports only (athletics, bocce, cheerleading, softball, swimming), coaches have until May 6, 2019 to meet the above certification requirements.*

### **Renewing Sport Certifications**

- Sport Certifications are valid for three years.
- Assistant Coaches (Level 1)
  - may renew their certification by completing an approved education & development opportunity
  - may advance their coaching knowledge by earning a Head Coach (level 2) certification, even though their role in their training program is that of an Assistant Coach
- Head Coaches (Level 2)
  - Sport-specific course/opportunity
    - Serves to renew a coach's Head Coach certification within that specific sport
    - Courses/opportunities must be either hosted by or approved by SOMD
  - General coaching knowledge course/opportunity
    - Serves to renew that coach's certification in all sports
    - Courses/opportunities must be either hosted by or approved by SOMD
  - Must complete a sport-specific course/ opportunity a minimum of once every six years (*i.e., at least once every two certification renewals*)
  - Renewal of a Head Coach (level 2) certification serves to also renewal an Assistant Coach (level 1) certification, provided the coach has completed either Coaching Special Olympics Athletes or Coaching Unified Sports at some point in their coaching career.

### **Coaches with Existing Sport Certifications**

- All currently earned certifications will be honored through their current expiration dates.
- If a currently certified Head Coach (level 2) has not yet completed Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (traditional coaches) or Coaching Unified Sports (Unified coaches), that coach must complete that course for their next certification renewal.

### **Coach Education & Development Opportunities**

- Coach education opportunities are posted on the new SOMD Coach Resource Page (<https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/>) and also included in the SOMD Sports Calendar distributed as a part of the Area Memo to Area leaders.
- Only courses/opportunities hosted by or approved by SOMD will be accepted for certification purposes.
- Area programs are encouraged to host courses/opportunities with the approval of SOMD and utilizing SOMD approved instructors and facilitators (*approval must be obtained for each education opportunity*).
- Serving as an instructor/facilitator for a course counts as having completed that course.
- The pre-season and pre-competition webinars provided by SOMD for each sport are not considered education opportunities for the purposes of coach certification or renewal.