

Athlete and Special Partner Selection Criteria and Responsibilities

To be eligible for selection to Team North Dakota for the 2010 National Games, an athlete/Special Partner must meet the following criteria:

1. Have competed in local or area, and state level competition in the sport in which he/she will apply to compete in at the National Games. (i.e. 2009 State Summer Games; 2010 State Soccer Tournament)
2. Have placed first, second or third in his/her sport in the most recent state event in which he/she is applying.
3. Show evidence of active participation in a good strong training program with both conditioning and skill development.
4. Has demonstrated the ability to:
 - a. relate to an unfamiliar coach or chaperon
 - b. deal with the magnitude of a national level event for 9-10 days in an unfamiliar setting
 - c. travel by bus or plane to and from Nebraska
 - d. have good self-help skills and be free of major behavior and emotional problems
5. Agree to refrain from the use of alcohol or tobacco products during training camps and the games.
6. Continue with a structured training program from the time of selection through time of games with local and state coach.
7. Compete in area, district and state competitions in the sport selected in upcoming year.
8. Attend the Special Olympics National Games training camp (tentatively scheduled for July 16-17) and other training opportunities that are presented for National Games athletes.
9. Must be committed to attending the 2010 Special Olympics National Games for approximately 9 days (July 18-24).
10. Be responsible for any other commitments that Special Olympics North Dakota or the state coach may deem necessary.
11. Partners 16 years of age or older will be required to be current on all volunteer registration requirements; i.e. volunteer registration form/background check (18 years or older), protective behaviors and general orientation tests.
12. Athlete must have had a physical within a year of the National Games (after July 23, 2009). A new medical form will need to be filled out for all athletes attending the Games.

Coach Selection Criteria/Responsibilities

1. Become thoroughly familiar with the Mission and Philosophy of Special Olympics and use them to guide all endeavors regarding his/her position as a National Games coach.
2. Be certified in the sport in which you are applying to coach or become certified before National Games.
3. Regularly monitor the training progress of National Games athletes in sport selected through phone calls, training sessions and encouraging letters.
4. Attend the state competition in his/her sport during the 2009-2010 program year.
5. Attend the Special Olympics National Games training camp (tentatively schedule for July 16-17) and other training opportunities that are presented for National Games athletes.
6. Refrain from the use of alcohol or tobacco products while responsible for athletes
7. Serve as a chaperon for athletes during training events and during the duration of the National Games (travel time included).
8. Represent North Dakota in such a way as to reflect the Special Olympics ideals of sportsmanship when interacting with athletes, coaches and games officials.
9. Head coaches must be at least 18 years of age.
10. Complete required forms/tests and submit to a background check.