

**2026 Special Olympics USA Games**  
**Special Olympics Team Nebraska**  
***Coaches Application Information/Requirements***



Minneapolis, Minnesota will welcome Team Nebraska to the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games. From June 20-26, 2026, Minneapolis, Minnesota will be transformed into an Olympic Village to host 4,000 athletes, 1,500 coaches and delegates, 10,000 volunteers, and 75,000 spectators. Team Nebraska Heads of Delegation will be Nate Parks, VP of Program, and Dave Demyan, Director of Sport and Competition. Athletes from Nebraska will compete in the following sports:

Athletics	Tennis
Bocce (Unified)	Flag Football
Bowling	Soccer (Unified)
Powerlifting	

Coaches selected to represent Team Nebraska at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games must be well educated in coaching and demonstrate qualities that include sportsmanship, dedication to quality training, understand the rules of the sport, and have the ability to function well as a part of a team. All selected coaches will serve a dual role of both coach and chaperon. Team Nebraska coaches will be selected in August. The athletes will be selected in September with the application period to open following Fall Games. Selection of both coaches and athletes will be made by the SONE Program Committee, which is made up of a combination of staff and board members. Mike Messerole, HOD of the Barracudas delegation, is the chairperson with Nate Parks who is the staff liaison. Competitions from the 2024 season will be used to determine which athletes will qualify. It is important to note that practice leading up to the games is mandatory for coaches and athletes, and travel may be required.

### **TO ALL APPLICANTS**

Before completing this application, it is important to understand the commitment necessary to be part of the coaching staff for Team Nebraska. Coaches' responsibilities are outlined below. The Team Nebraska Coaches Code of Conduct is attached to this application. All selected coaches will be required to sign a statement acknowledging their commitment to following the standards set forth in the Coaches Code of Conduct. AS coaches serve as additional chaperone's and logistics assistants and may be assigned duties as needed at the event including taking athletes to

Healthy Athletes, assisting with chaperoning of athletes that need additional attention, etc.... It is also important to note that a great deal of walking will be expected of all coaches and athletes at the games. The games will be held at the University of Minnesota - the event will unfold across other premier locations, including the National Sports Center in Blaine.

### **MINIMUM STANDARDS**

Coaches must meet all Minimum Standards for their application to be considered.

- A minimum of 2 years experience coaching Special Olympics athletes
- Must be a minimum of 21 years of age by May 1, 2026
- Must follow all Special Olympics Nebraska Volunteer Policies for a Class A volunteer and submit to a Criminal Background Check
- Must abide by the Team Nebraska Coaches Code of Conduct
- Must be willing and able to serve as both a sport specific coach and an athlete chaperone for all Team Nebraska activities leading up to and during the Games. This includes 24 hour/day supervision of athletes during Games time and at all training camps/practices.
- Must be able to distribute prescribed medication to athletes (if appropriate)

- Must be willing to commit to maintaining ongoing contact with assigned athletes, their family/guardians, and the athlete's local HOD/coach
- Must be willing to organize practice sessions throughout the year with the selected athletes to ensure they are prepared for competition at the 2026 USA Games
- Must be or become certified as a coach for your specific sport by March 1, 2025
- Must work in conjunction with SONE staff leading up to and during the games
- Must be willing to conduct media interviews if requested and support athletes to accommodate any requests as well
- Must attend any Team Nebraska meetings prior to and during the games
- Must show a commitment to participating and leading year round health and fitness programs not only with the athletes associated with Team Nebraska but your home delegation (this will be helpful with the amount of walking to take place at the USA games)
- Coaches must be able to fundraise independently an amount \$300 to supplement the Team Nebraska expenses.

### **TIME COMMITMENT**

All coaches are expected to be available to participate in all of the following:

- Must be able to attend an informational meeting in Omaha.
- All coaches must be able to be out of the state, away from their families and jobs, from approximately June 20-26, 2026.
- Attend and participate in other activities as scheduled by Special Olympics Nebraska
- Conduct practice sessions with selected athletes at a minimum of one time per week for at least 8 weeks leading up to the time of the games

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

Coach's applications will be accepted until January 31, 2025. Special Olympics Nebraska reserves the right to recruit coaches for sports as needed or deemed necessary in order to provide the highest quality experience for the athletes going to the USA Games in 2026.

*Thank you for your interest in being a part of Team Nebraska.  
Please complete the attached application and return to:*

**Nate Parks and Dave Demyan Special  
Olympics Nebraska**

**14216 Dayton Circle, STE 1**

**Omaha, NE 68127**

**Deadline for Submission is:  
January 31, 2025**

**2026 Special Olympics USA Games  
Special Olympics Team Nebraska  
Coaches Application**

Please print or type all sections of this application, attach a current resume.

**PART A – GENERAL INFORMATION**

Please check the sports or AS position you are applying for:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Athletics</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tennis</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Powerlifting</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Flag Football (Unified)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Bowling</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Soccer (Unified)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Bocce (Unified)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

**POSITION(S) YOU ARE APPLYING FOR:**

(You may mark more than one. If more than one is marked please rank your preference 1 to 2 with 1 being your first choice and 2 being the least desirable.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Head Coach	<input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Coach (Flag Football and Soccer)
-------------------------------------	---

Gender of Applicant: MALE  FEMALE

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company & Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_

Age (must be age 21 by 5/1/2026): \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**PART B – SCHEDULE COMMITMENT**

As a coach, you will be required to be available to attend the following:

- a. Team Nebraska Informational Meeting – TBD Date/Time (Likely a Weekend)
- b. Minimum 8 weeks practice (travel may be required)
- c. 2026 USA Games – June 20-26, 2026

--	--	--	--	--

**PART C – SPORTS BACKGROUND AND COACHING EXPERIENCE/EDUCATION**

<b>NON-SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPORTS COACHED</b>	<b>LIST YEARS COACHED</b>	<b>SCHOOL/CLUB OR ORGANIZATION YOU COACHED</b>
ex. Track and Field	2000-2010	High School

<b>SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPORTS COACHED</b>	<b>LIST YEARS COACHED</b>	<b>REGION AND LOCAL PROGRAM YOU COACHED</b>
ex. Athletics	2010-2020	Region, Delegation

How many years of experience do you have working with athletes/individuals with intellectual disabilities?

What Special Olympics coaching education courses have you attended or taken on-line in the past 10 years? (include Coaching Special Olympics Athletes, Principles of Coaching, Coaching Unified Sports, Sports Specific Clinics)

<b>Session</b>	<b>Year Attended</b>

Are you currently certified in any of the following?	Date of Expiration
Concussion Awareness	
First Aid	
CPR	
Sign Language	
Other	

**PART E – SPECIAL OLYMPICS PHILOSOPHY**

Why do you want to be a coach for Team Nebraska at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Summer Games?  
Please include information about your approach to coaching and how it will benefit all of Team Nebraska.

What specifically do you incorporate into your coaching plans to ensure successful training? Please attach a copy of a training plan for the sport that you are applying if you have one.

What qualities, both personal and professional, do you bring to Team Nebraska?

**PART F – REFERENCES**

Please list up to three (3) references including one of your most recent athletes in the sport for which you are applying. Be certain your references are knowledgeable in your coaching abilities and are willing to speak on your behalf.

<b><i>Athlete Reference:</i></b>				
First Name:			Last Name:	
Gender:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female
Mailing Address:				
City:		State:		Zip Code:
Home Telephone:				
Email Address:				
What is your relationship with this athlete and how long have you known them?				
<b><i>Reference from a Coach in your Local Program:</i></b>				
First Name:			Last Name:	
Gender:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female
Mailing Address:				
City:		State:		Zip Code:
Home Telephone:				
Email Address:				
What is your relationship with this person and how long have you known them?				
<b><i>Reference from your Regional Coordinator:</i></b>				
First Name:			Last Name:	
Gender:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female
Mailing Address:				
City:		State:		Zip Code:
Home Telephone:				
Email Address:				
How long have you known them?				

**PART G – UNIFORM INFORMATION***Please fill in measurements or circle the size that would best fit.*

Height                      feet                      inches                      Weight                      pounds

Waist: (inches)                      Inseam : (inches)

Hat Size                      S                      M                      L                      XL                      Circumference of Head: (inches):

Write in shoe size and check appropriate type , i.e. Men's , Women's, etc.

Shoe Size: (Running shoe or sneaker):                      Men's                      Women's                      Youth

**Men's Sizes (Check Appropriate Box for Each Item)**

Men's Shirt size (Golf/Polo shirt)	<input type="checkbox"/>	S	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL
Men's Shorts size (dress shorts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	S	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL
Men's or Unisex Mesh shorts	<input type="checkbox"/>	S	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL
Men's T-shirt size	<input type="checkbox"/>	S	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL
Men's Sweatshirt size	<input type="checkbox"/>	S	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL

**Women's Sizes (Check Appropriate Box for Each Item)**

Women's Shirt size (Golf/Polo shirt)	<input type="checkbox"/>	S	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL								
Women's Shorts size	<input type="checkbox"/>	S	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL								
Women's T-shirt size	<input type="checkbox"/>	S	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL								
Women's Sweatshirt size	<input type="checkbox"/>	S	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL								
Women's Pants Size	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	<input type="checkbox"/>	16	<input type="checkbox"/>	18	<input type="checkbox"/>	20

**PART G – SIGNATURE***Please read the following statements and sign at the bottom.*

The information presented in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Yes, I have carefully read and clearly understand the minimum standards required to be selected as a coach and I am willing to make a full commitment to Team Nebraska for the duration of the 2026 Special Olympics USA Summer Games.

I am willing to submit to a Criminal Background Check through Special Olympics Nebraska.

I am willing and able to serve as both a sport specific coach and an athlete chaperone for all Team Nebraska activities leading up to and during the Games.

I am willing to maintain consistent contact with assigned athletes, their family/guardians, and their local HOD/coach. I am willing to conduct practice sessions with all the athletes selected in the sport I am applying to coach to ensure the athlete is prepared for the competition at the 2026 USA Games.

I understand that if I do not meet all of the requirements, I can be removed from my position within Team Nebraska without potential for appeal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Coach*\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date**Please read and sign the Coach's Code of Conduct.*



**Special  
Olympics**  
Nebraska

## **Special Olympics Nebraska**

### **Coaches Code of Conduct**

I understand I am a representative of Special Olympics, both on and off the field, and my actions should uphold the highest standards. As a coach with Special Olympics Nebraska I agree to abide by the Special Olympics Coaches Code of Conduct as stated below:

#### **Respect for Others**

- ✓ I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, coaches, volunteers, friends and spectators in Special Olympics.
- ✓ I will treat everyone equally regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
- ✓ I will be a positive role model for the athletes I coach.

#### **Ensure a Positive Experience**

- ✓ I will ensure that for each athlete I coach, the time spent with Special Olympics is a positive experience.
- ✓ I will respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each athlete.
- ✓ I will ensure each athlete competes in events that challenge that athlete's potential and are appropriate to that athlete's ability.
- ✓ I will be fair, considerate and honest with athletes and communicate with athletes using simple, clear language.
- ✓ I will ensure that accurate scores are provided for entry of an athlete into any event.
- ✓ I will instruct each athlete to perform to the best of the athlete's ability at all preliminary competition and finals competition in accordance with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.
- ✓ I will encourage athletes to embrace a fit and healthy lifestyle.

#### **Act Professionally and Take Responsibility for My Actions**

- ✓ My language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- ✓ I will display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved in the sport (athletes, coaches, opponents, officials, administrators, parents, spectators, media, etc.).
- ✓ I will encourage athletes to demonstrate the same qualities.
- ✓ I will not drink alcohol, smoke or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics at training sessions or during competition.
- ✓ I will refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes and others, including verbal, physical and emotional abuse.  
This includes personal abuse via social media (ie: texting, tweeting, email, and Facebook).
- ✓ I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care.
- ✓ I will abide by the Special Olympics policy on the prohibition of coaches dating athletes.

#### **Quality Service to the Athletes**

- ✓ I will seek continual improvement through performance evaluation and ongoing coach education.
- ✓ I will be knowledgeable about the Sports Rules and skills of the sport(s) I coach.
- ✓ I will provide a plan for a regular training program.
- ✓ I will keep copies of the medical, training and competition records for each athlete I coach.
- ✓ I will follow the Special Olympics, International Federation, National Federation/Governing Body rules for my sport(s).

#### **Health and Safety of Athletes**

- ✓ I will ensure that the equipment and facilities are safe to use.
- ✓ I will ensure that the equipment, rules, training and environment are appropriate for the age and ability of the athletes.
- ✓ I will review each athlete's medical form and be aware of any limitations on that athlete's participation noted on that form.
- ✓ I will encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required.
- ✓ I will maintain the same interest and support toward sick and injured athletes.
- ✓ I will allow further participation in training and competition only when appropriate.



If the behaviors, attitudes, or actions of any coach or other participant of the member organization be contrary to these principles or to the goals and mission of Special Olympics Nebraska, then one or more of the following steps may be taken by the Program Committee, Sports Officials, and/or by SONE in an effort to alleviate the situation without further affecting the athletes of SONE:

- The coach will be notified of the undesirable behavior or action and requested to remedy the situation for continued participation.
- The coach will be requested to withdraw, personally or as an organization, from the remainder of the event and/or game/match.
- If a team is found using an ineligible or illegal player, the team will forfeit all games in which the athlete played and will also forfeit any awards that were received, and the team will not advance to the next level of competition.

In the event of extreme or repeated behavior or actions, Special Olympics Nebraska may:

- Suspend the coach or organization from participating in any or all SONE activity pending further investigation into the alleged behavior or action.
- Suspend the coach or organization from participating in SONE activity for a specified period of time to be determined by the President/CEO of SONE or designee and/or the Program Committee.
- Ban the coach or organization from participating in SONE activity indefinitely.
- If a coach is suspended or their coaching status has been revoked by SONE, then all sport certifications will be revoked, and the individual must re-certify those sports records. The coach must submit a letter to the Vice President of Program explaining why they should be reinstated as a coach. If approval is granted for reinstatement, the individual will be required to submit a new Category A volunteer form, complete a new background check, and complete the Protective Behaviors training. Sports re-certification cannot occur until after they have been reinstated as a coach.

I understand that if I violate this Code of Conduct, I will be subject to a range of consequences, up to and including being prohibited from coaching in Special Olympics.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team/Delegation: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_