

# Special Olympics Canada NextGen Coaching Apprenticeship Program



## Introduction

Special Olympics Canada and its Provincial/Territorial Chapters strongly believe in a coach education model that develops and empowers Special Olympics coaches at all levels of competition. Numerous programs in the sport community have demonstrated that apprenticeship programs are essential in the development, recruitment and retention of coaches, particularly those in underrepresented groups. In a new opportunity from Special Olympics Canada, the NextGen Coaching Apprenticeship Program will allocate Chapters up to two additional coaching quota spots for identified NextGen coaches to develop their coaching skills through Provincial/Territorial and National Games.

## Objectives

- Build coaching capacity for Special Olympics coaches across all sports
- Provide apprentice coaches with professional development opportunities to prepare them for higher level coaching and increase certification
- Provide apprentice coaches exposure to and experience in a Multisport Games environment

## Apprentice Coach Role

NextGen Apprentice Coaches are attending National Games to gain multisport experience, and to observe and learn from coaches in the Special Olympics community. The Apprentice Coach should be integrated into the team with which they are attending and have a meaningful role within the team. They are not intended to fulfill the role of coach and will not be assigned an athlete ratio. The Apprentice Coach will be provided with an accreditation at Games which will provide them the same access as other coaches.



## Eligibility Criteria

Applicants for the NextGen Coaching Apprenticeship Program must meet the following criteria:

- NCCP Special Olympics Competition-Introduction - Trained
- Make Ethical Decisions - Evaluated
- CAC Safe Sport
- Registered with their Provincial/Territorial Chapter
- Never attended a Special Olympics National Games as a coach
- Not already selected to coach at National Games
- Applicants must identify with one of the following categories:
  - Women coaches
  - Indigenous coaches
  - Young coaches (age 30 and under)
  - Special Olympics athletes as coaches
  - Coaches in a declining sport (as identified by the Chapter)

Exceptions to the above criteria will be evaluated and approved by Special Olympics Canada and the Canadian Sport Council.

For more information on the NextGen Coaching Apprenticeship Program please contact your Chapter.