

POLICY INTENT

Special Olympics Prince Edward Island (SOPEI) has the responsibility to organize, develop and select Coaches and Mission Staff to represent SOPEI at Local, Provincial, and National Games. This policy sets SOPEI's procedures governing the selection of staff, coaches, and volunteers representing PEI.

APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY

This policy applies to all SOPEI members and staff seeking selection to a SOPEI Team and those SOPEI members and Staff selected to the SOPEI Team.

TEAM SIZE

Team size will be dictated through quotas provided by the host province, Special Olympics Canada, or the Games Organizing Committee of each individual event. When this is not the case, the appropriate Selection Committee will have the discretion to name a larger team that will include a greater number of coaches/volunteers, or name a smaller team due to resource constraints.

APPLICATION PROCESS

SOPEI will circulate Coaches applications. Applications will only be considered if they are complete and if they have been submitted prior to the established deadline. Complete application requirements can be found in Policy 6000-09.

VOLUNTEER COACH AND MISSION STAFF ELIGIBILITY

Generic, Local, Provincial, and Inter-Provincial Competitions

- Must be a registered volunteer or staff of SOPEI for the current program year and in good standing with SOPEI;
- Must be an active coach in a Special Olympics program;
- Must have appropriate coach education for years of service with SOPEI as outlined in Policy 5000-14;
- Must be at least 18 years of age to travel with the team as the only volunteer from the program. OR if serving in a support role, be seventeen (17) years of age or older, one year prior to the first day of the upcoming National Games in which they are eligible to compete;

National Games

- All of the conditions above must be met
- Must be 18 years of age as of the first day of the competition
- Coaches applying to advance to National Games must have attended the identified Provincial Games qualifying event in the sport immediately preceding the National Games;
- Must submit an application form to SOPEI
- Be eligible to participate as per the rules of the National Games.

World Games

- All of the conditions above must be met and applicants must be endorsed by the chapter
- Applicants must satisfy all Pan-Canadian Coach and Mission Staff Policies for selection

SELECTION

Selection to Local, Provincial and Inter-Provincial Games

The SOPEI Program Director will make all team member decisions for Inter-Provincial, Provincial, and Local competitions.

Selection to National Games

Chef de Mission

Team PEI Chef de Mission will be the responsibility of the Program Director of SOPEI to assume this role or appoint his/her designate. The Chef de Mission is the “head of the delegation” and the team spokesperson prior to and during the Games.

Team Manager

The Chef de Mission for Team PEI is responsible for selecting the Team Manager(s).

Team Mission Staff and Team Coaches

The ad hoc Selection Committee of the Board will make all team Mission Staff and Coach member decisions for National Games following a formal application process. These selections will follow all criteria within this policy and the most current selection policies. The selections will also take into considerations the quota of positions provided to PEI for the National Games.

The Chef de Mission may recommend a volunteer to fill a Mission Staff position who has sport-specific experience depending on the needs of Team PEI. In particular instances, there may be a need to bring additional support volunteers to help manage the team or to address a request for accommodation by an athlete. These persons will be registered on the Games rosters as Mission Staff and are not required to meet minimum certification requirements. They will not be included in the athlete to coach ratio. These members are considered full members of the Team and included in all official Team functions and privileges (ie. Opening Ceremonies, Closing Ceremonies, Athlete’s Village, meals, etc.). There may be fees associated with this accommodation charged to the person or organization making the request.

Unsuccessful candidates may request in writing to the Program Director, within 15 days of receiving a notification, an explanation for why they were not selected. The Program Director will provide a response within 30 days of receipt of the request.

TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

SOPEI will announce team selections by posting the Official Team List and by contacting selected coaches and volunteers directly. No-one shall presume or announce that an Athlete, Coach or Mission Staff position has been selected to Team PEI until an “OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT” is made.