

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC POLICY MANUAL

Section: **SPORT**
Policy: **Sport Training Program Sanctioning**
Effective Date: October 2013
Revised: June 2015
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Special Olympics BC is a community based organization, and as such, programs must be open to individuals with an intellectual disability from the community provided that the program is appropriate for the individuals skill level and age, and that there is room in the program for additional athletes.

All programs offered in the name of Special Olympics within BC must be approved by either the Provincial body of Special Olympics BC or the Local with responsibility for the respective geographical area.

To be sanctioned, training programs must meet minimum standards as detailed in this policy.

- All sport training programs must adhere to the following safety guidelines:
 - Medical forms will be on hand at all programs.
 - An Emergency Action Plan will be in place and all athletes/volunteers will be made aware of the plan and will have practiced the plan.
 - A first aid kit will be at the program for treating minor cuts and bruises.
 - Emergency numbers will be clearly listed in the first aid kit and access to a telephone will be ensured.
 - A coach will assess the facility each week for possible hazards. Finding any, they will secure that area.
- All sport training programs must be a minimum of 12 weeks in duration (where possible 16 weeks).
- All sport training programs must be at least one hour training (where possible 1 ½ hours) at least once per week (where possible twice per week).
- Attendance must be taken at every sport training program.
 - To be eligible for competition athletes must attend a minimum of 75% of all sport training programs. Excused absence (vacation or illness would be counted as attended. Unexcused absences would not.
- All sport training programs must adhere to the SOBC Athlete to Coach Ratio policy.
- All sport training programs must be run by a trained Special Olympics coach as per the Coach Qualifications policy.
- All sport training programs must adhere to Special Olympics BC policies and philosophies and minimum program standards.

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- Only provincially recognized and official sports of Special Olympics BC may be offered.
- All programs must be open to evaluation by Special Olympics BC and must make best effort to implement recommendations made through the evaluation process.

Every effort must be made to offer programs at a time and location that will allow for the greatest participation by athletes with an intellectual disability.

School physical education classes will not be considered a Special Olympics BC program. Programs offered outside of the school curriculum but during lunch hour or pre - or post - school, or other options approved by Special Olympics BC may be sanctioned if they meet all minimum standards for a Special Olympics BC program.

If it is questionable if a program meets all minimum standards, the Special Olympics BC Vice President, Sport shall be responsible to determine if this program may be sanctioned. Decisions made by the Special Olympics BC Vice President, Sport may be appealed to the Special Olympics BC Leadership Council. Decisions of the Leadership Council may be appealed to the Special Olympics BC Board of Directors. The decision of the Board of Directors is final and no further appeals will be considered.