

Coach Standards for Special Olympics Ireland Head Coaches, Coaches, Assistant Coaches

This document outlines the standards for Assistant Coaches, Coaches and Head Coaches for clubs affiliated to Special Olympics Ireland. These updated standards will bring Special Olympics clubs in closer alignment to Sport Ireland Coaching recommendations for all National Governing Bodies. Each Special Olympics club must have an assigned Head Coach with the appropriate qualification.

All coaches should regularly up skill and strive to increase their qualification levels.

In Addition:

- **No General Volunteer will be assigned as an Assistant Coach, Coach or Head Coach, without the relevant qualification.**
- Every Assistant Coach, Coach and Head Coach is required to have a minimum Sport Ireland - Safeguarding 1 - Child Welfare & Protection Basic Awareness Course or Sports Northern Ireland - Safeguarding Children & Young People in Sport prior to attending a Special Olympics Ireland coaching course or being assigned to these positions.
- Assistant Coaches are any volunteer/s assisting with the delivery of the sports programme in the club, in any manner. They may be required to assist the Coach or Head Coach.
- All Assistant Coaches and Coaches should only be coaching under the guidance of a Head Coach who is qualified to the appropriate level.
- All Assistant Coaches, Coaches and Head Coaches should only be coaching within the parameters that their qualifications allow.
- In Special Olympics clubs with team sports, it is recommended that a suitably qualified Head Coach is assigned per team.
- With the exception of Swimming and Kayaking, a relevant qualification of Level 1 or above from another recognised National Governing Body will suffice as a Head Coach qualification. This qualification may be from a sport other than the official sports offered by SOI.

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| <u>Sport</u> | <u>Assistant Coach (Minimum)</u> | <u>Coach (Minimum)</u> | <u>Head Coach (Minimum)</u> | <u>Ideal Head Coach in line with Sport Ireland Coaching (if different from recommended)</u> |
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| Alpine Skiing * | Introduction to Coaching Practices | Irish Association of Snowsports Instructors Level 1 | Irish Association of Snowsports Instructors Level 1 | Irish Association of Snowsports Instructors Level 2 |
| Swimming *Open Water Swimming - see details head coach requirements* | Swim Ireland Helpers Certificate (<i>Certified only when working under an ASA Level 1/2 qualified teacher/coach</i>) IWS Level 1 – Aquatics Assistant for People with Disabilities (<i>Certified only when working under a qualified ASA Level 1/2 qualified teacher/coach</i>) STA Level 2 Awards in Aquatics Teaching – People with Disabilities | ASA Level 1 Teacher of Disabilities* ASA Level 1 Swim Teacher* ASA Level 1 Coaching* <i>*Certified only when working under an ASA Level 2 qualified teacher/coach (same qualification)</i> IWS Assistant Swim Teachers* <i>Certified only when coaching under a fully qualified Swim Teacher</i> IWS Level 2 – Aquatics Teacher for People with Disabilities (<i>one to one coaching only</i>) ASA Level 2 Teacher of Disabilities STA Level 2 Award in Teaching Swimming | ASA Level 2 Swim Teacher ASA Level 2 Coaching IWS Swim Teachers IWS Level 3 - Aquatics Leader for People with Disabilities STA Level 2 Certificate in Teaching Swimming <u>Open Water Swimming Specific:</u> ASA Level 2 Open Water Swim Coach STA Level 2 Award in Open Water Swimming Coaching | |
| Athletics | Introduction to Coaching Practices | Athletics Leader or Assistant Coach Athletics Ireland (AI) Leading Athletics or Assisting Coaching, (UKA) | Athletics Coach Level 1(AI) Athletics Coach (UKA) | Athletics Ireland Level 2, 3 Athletics Coach (UKA) |
| Badminton | Introduction to Coaching Practices | Badminton Ireland Introductory Coaching Course or Instructor's Course | Badminton Ireland Level 1 | Badminton Ireland Level 2 |
| Basketball | Introduction to Coaching Practices | Basketball Ireland Introduction to Basketball Coaching | Basketball Ireland Level 1 | Basketball Ireland Level 2 |

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| Bocce | Introduction to Coaching Practices | Introduction to Coaching Bocce | Special Olympics Ireland Bocce Level 1 | |
| Bowling | Introduction to Coaching Practices | ITBA Introductory Course / BTBA FUNDamentals | ITBA Level 1, BTBA Level 1 Foundation Coach | ITBA Level 2 BTBA 2- Developmental Coach |
| Equestrian | Introduction to Coaching Practices | Horse Sport Ireland Introduction to Coaching | Horse Sport Ireland Level 1 RDAI Group Instructor Level 1 BHS Preliminary Teachers | Horse Sport Ireland Level 2 RDAI Group Instructor Level 2 BHS Teacher |
| Floorball* | Introduction to Coaching Practices | Introductory to Floorball Course | Introductory to Floorball Course | Introductory to Floorball Course |
| Football | Introduction to Coaching Practices Irish Football Association (IFA) Grassroots Introductory / IFA Level 1 Coaching Disabled Footballers | Football Association Ireland (FAI) – Kick Start 1 & 2 Adult Intro CPD Workshop (e.g. 7v7 Workshop) | FAI PDP 2 CPD Workshop (e.g. 7v7 Workshop) IFA Level 1 Award | FAI UEFA D license |
| Golf | Introduction to Coaching Practices | Special Olympics Golf Leader Course | Special Olympics Golf Leader Course | PGA Level 1 |

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| Gymnastics | Introduction to Coaching Practices | Gym Start Level 1, Gym Edge, Introductory/Introductory Women's/Men's Artistic Gymnastics British Gymnastics – Awards Scheme Coach | Irish Gymnastics - Level 1 Coaching Award in relevant Gymnastics discipline Gym Start Level 2 British Gymnastics – Level 1 Coach in relevant Gymnastics discipline | Irish Gymnastics – Level 2 + Coaching Award in relevant Gymnastics discipline British Gymnastics – Level 2 in relevant Gymnastics discipline |
| Kayaking | “Learn to Paddle” Level 1 Coaching Award | Level 1 Kayak Instructor Award | Level 2 Kayak Instructor Award | Level 3 Kayak Instructor Award |
| Table Tennis | Introduction to Coaching Practices | Irish Table Tennis Association (ITTA) Introduction to coaching Table Tennis | ITTA Level 1 Coaching Award | ITTA Level 2 Coaching Award |
| Pitch and Putt | Introduction to Coaching Practices | Introductory Pitch and Putt Coaching Award | Level 1 Pitch and Putt Coaching Award | |
| Motor Activities Training Programme (MATP) | Introduction to Coaching Practices | MATP Workshop (delivered on a regional basis) | MATP Workshop (delivered on a regional basis) | |

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