

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>
Alpine Skiing *	Introduction to Coaching Practices	The Irish Association of Snowsports Instructors - Alpine Level 1 Ski Instructor	The Irish Association of Snowsports Instructors - Alpine Level 1 Ski Instructor	The Irish Association of Snowsports Instructors - Alpine Level 2 Ski Instructor
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>) or IWS (Irish Water Safety) Level 1 – Aquatics Assistant for People with Disabilities (Certified only when working under a qualified ASA Level 1/2 qualified teacher/coach) Or	ASA (Amateur Swimming Association) Level 1 Teacher of Disabilities* or ASA Level 1 Swim Teacher* or ASA Level 1 Coaching* <i>*Certified only when working under an ASA Level 2 qualified teacher/coach (same qualification)</i> or ASA Level 2 Teacher of Disabilities or STA Level 2 Award in Teaching Swimming or IWS Assistant Swim Teachers* <i>Certified only when coaching under a fully qualified Swim</i>	NI: ASA Level 2 Swim Teacher or ASA Level 2 Coaching or STA Level 2 Certificate in Teaching Swimming or IWS Swim Teachers or IWS Level 3 - Aquatics Leader for People with Disabilities or Swim Ireland Level 2 Swimming Teacher or	Swim Ireland Level 3 Coaching Swimming

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	STA (Safety Training Association) Level 2 Awards in Aquatics Teaching – People with Disabilities	<i>Teacher</i> or IWS Level 2 – Aquatics Teacher for People with Disabilities (<i>one to one coaching only</i>) or Swim Ireland Level 1 Assistant Swimming Teacher or Swim Ireland Level 1 Assistant Coaching Swimming	Swim Ireland Level 2 Coaching Swimming or Swim Ireland Level 2 Autism Spectrum Disorder Swimming Teacher (ASDST) <u>Open Water Swimming Specific:</u> NI: ASA Level 2 Open Water Swim Coach or STA Level 2 Award in Open Water Swimming Coaching ROI: Swim Ireland Level 2 Coaching Open Water Swimming	
Athletics	Introduction to Coaching Practices	ROI: Athletics Ireland (AI) Athletics Leader or AI Assistant Coach NI: Coaching Assistant (Athletics NI or UKA) or Leading Athletics (UKA)	ROI: Athletics Coach Level 1 (AI) NI: Athletics Coach (UKA or Athletics NI)	ROI: Athletics Ireland Level 2, 3
Badminton	Introduction to Coaching Practices	Badminton Ireland BWF Shuttle Time	Badminton Ireland BWF Level 1	Badminton Ireland BWF Level 2

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Basketball	Introduction to Coaching Practices	Basketball Ireland Introduction to Basketball Coaching	Basketball Ireland Level 1	Basketball Ireland Level 2 or 3
Bocce	Introduction to Coaching Practices	Introduction to Coaching Bocce (Special Olympics Ireland)	Bocce Level 1 (Special Olympics Ireland)	
Bowling	Introduction to Coaching Practices	Irish Tenpin Bowling Association (ITBA) Introductory Level Coach (Coaching Assistant) Or British Tenpin Bowling Association FUNDamentals level	ITBA Level 1 Coach or BTBA Level 1 Foundation Coach	ITBA Level 2 Coach or BTBA 2- Developmental Coach
Equestrian	Introduction to Coaching Practices	Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) Introduction to Coaching	HSI Level 1 (National Development Coach or National Performance Coach) or RDAI Group Instructor Level 1 or BHS Preliminary Teachers	HSI Level 2 or RDAI Group Instructor Level 2 or BHS Teacher
Floorball*	Introduction to Coaching Practices	Introductory to Coaching Floorball Course	Introductory to Coaching Floorball Course	
Football	Introduction to Coaching Practices or Irish Football Association (IFA) Grassroots or Introduction to Coaching Award / IFA Level 1 Coaching Disabled Footballers Award	Football Association Ireland (FAI) – Kick Start / PDP 1 or Adult Intro and CPD Workshop (e.g. 7v7 Workshop)	FAI Kick Start / PDP 2 or IFA National Coaching Certificate – Youth (Previously known as IFA Level 1 Award) and CPD Workshop (e.g. 7v7 Workshop)	FAI - National D license or IFA - UEFA C Diploma (Regional Course)

NOTE - These will be revised in line with Sport Ireland Coaching and Sport NI respectively.

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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	Gymnastics Ireland - Level 1 Coaching Award in relevant Gymnastics discipline Gym Start Level 2 British Gymnastics – Level 1 Coach in relevant Gymnastics discipline	Gymnastics Ireland – 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)	