



Coach/Chaperone

Brief summary: To be responsible for providing for the general welfare, safety, health and well-being of each athlete in their care, from the time of appointment until the return of the team following the Games. To provide assistance and support to the Head Coach in all training sessions and during the Games. The individual must be available for all training sessions and for the duration of the Games.

Term of Office: From appointment to 3 weeks after the Games

Key tasks & responsibilities

Prior to Games

- Supervision of athletes at all training sessions, which will include weekends, overnight stays, and possibly various locations in the regions, in cooperation with other coach/chaperones in the delegation, which may include the chaperoning of athletes in other sports.
- Work closely with the Head Coach in preparing an overall team and individualised training programme specific to each athlete's ability, experience and events.
- Attend and assist with all coaching sessions so that athletes are well trained to the best of their ability and share all relevant information with the Head Coach, in a timely manner.
- Work closely with the Medical Coordinator and the athlete's family/carer to ensure each athlete has a positive experience both during training and at Games time.
- Support athletes with their daily needs, where required. Personal care is a requirement for athletes, support with administering medication where required.
- Assist where necessary, in ensuring the health and welfare of athletes in your care are addressed together with on-going communication between you and the Head Coach and other members of the management team.
- Liaise with family members/carers of athletes in their care to ensure all relevant medical, health and behavioural information is obtained to fully support the athletes throughout their time on Team Ireland.
- Update the Head Coach of any relevant information/concerns related to athletes in their care, at the earliest possible opportunity.
- Ensure the confidentiality of any information in relation to any athlete or other team member of Team Ireland.
- Abide by Special Olympics Ireland's policies and procedures.

During the Games

- Supervision of athletes 24 hours a day in cooperation with the Head Coach and other coach/chaperones in the delegation.
- Assist where necessary, in ensuring the health and welfare of athletes in your care are addressed together with on-going communication between you and the Head Coach and other members of the management team.
- Ensure that athletes are assembled and ready at correct times and places for ceremonies and competition.
- Assist in accounting for luggage and personal items of athletes at all times.
- Support the Head Coach with sports technical duties as required.

- Assist in taking full advantage of clinics and other events such as Healthy Athlete and Special Olympics Town.
- Conduct yourself in a manner appropriate for a coach/chaperone at a major event.
- Always consider the needs of the athletes first.
- Undertake any other tasks appropriate to the post.
- Abide by Special Olympics Ireland's policies and procedures and those in operation at the 2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games.

Post Games

- Input to the relevant reports on or before 17th April 2025.

Person Specification

To take up the position of Coach/Chaperone you must:

- Be a registered volunteer with Special Olympics Ireland and have an understanding of the Special Olympics programme.
- Baseline of an Introductory level National Governing Body/International Federation coaching qualification.
- Experience of working with people with intellectual disabilities in a sporting context or other.
- Experience travelling away with teams within and/or outside of Special Olympics.
- Comfortable sharing a room for training sessions and at Games time with a fellow management team member of the same gender.
- Comfortable with 10,000 – 20,000 steps per day.
- Possess a knowledge and understanding of the International Federation and Special Olympics Sports rules of the sport.
- Excellent communication, people-management and motivational skills.
- Be committed to making the Games a positive experience for Team Ireland.
- Competent in use of word, excel and e-mail and can access documents on the web. E-mail and online meetings (zoom/teams) is a key method of communication, and it will be necessary to have regular and frequent access to it.
- Hold a current full clean driving license.
- Be available to volunteer for the duration of the project and to attend all training/preparation sessions as required which will include weekends, overnight stays, and possibly various locations in the regions.