

Special Olympics Maryland – 2017-2018 Competitive Season - Coaches Roles and Responsibilities

1. At the start of the competitive season, the coaching staff will survey the athlete and their parents/guardian and determine the following:
 - a. Nature and understanding of the athletes' disability to determine best coaching approach.
 - b. Athletes' skating level for the season. An evaluation test will be performed by the Head and Assistant Head Coach to ensure athletes' abilities match the compulsory moves for that level
 - c. Athletes' music choice or musical direction (i.e., Celtic, soundtrack, pop, etc.)
 - d. Athletes' intended competition events for the season and confirmation with the athletes' parent/guardian (when required)
2. Optimally, there should be two coaches for every athlete. One coach will act as the lead and the other a secondary. Both coaches should be familiar with the athletes' level, compulsory moves and programs and should be able to work with the athlete when the other coach is not available.
3. When two coaches is not an option, the head coach will act as the secondary coach for that athlete and work with the athlete if the lead coach is not available. The head coach will be familiar with all athletes' programs to ensure they meet the competition requirements.
4. The lead coach will be responsible for choreographing the program to the selected music, ensuring that required moves are included in the program. They will also ensure that the athletes' programs are written down and diagrammed using the NHL rink diagram and updated with any changes. All information should be printed/copied and given to Cathy and filed in the SOMD notebook.
5. The head coach or staff coach will send out an email no later than Thursday to all skaters reminding them of the Saturday practice. One or more of the coaching staff should have access to the Special Skaters site so that they can send out emails on behalf of the head coach.
6. Coaches should be in skates and on the ice before their athlete takes the ice at 11:15am. If athletes are early, any coach can work with them until the lead/secondary coach is on the ice.
7. **Coaches will NOT use the ice time to practice their own skills.** If their athlete is unable to make the practice, they should work with other athletes or assist the head coach with Learn to Skate Students.
8. If an athlete is not participating or wishes to leave the ice during the practice, make sure the parent/guardian is able to watch them before allowing them to leave.
9. The last 5 minutes of each practice will be for play time like sharks and minnows or butt spins. Have fun!