

Level 2 – General Information



Purpose of Course

Certification is good for **3 years**

Breakdown of Training

Video #1: Communication Tools & Considerations

Video #2: Competition Preparation & Health Programs

Video #3: Sport Specifics

Questions? Contact CoachEducation@somn.org



Organizing a Training Session

1. Warm-Up
2. Review of previously learned skills
3. Introduce new skills & drills
4. Competition style
5. Cool down & review

Communication Tools (cont.)



USE EASY
WORDS



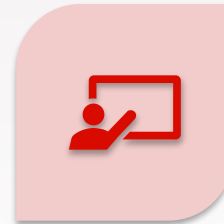
USE ONLY A
FEW WORDS



USE
PICTURES



DEMONSTRATE
BY ACTIONS



GIVE POSITIVE
REINFORCEMENT

Assistance Levels



Level of Assistance	Description	Sport Example
Verbal	Tell the athlete what to do	Footwork: “run forward to the line; then stop”
Demonstration	Show the athlete the what to do	Basketball: have athlete watch while someone else shoots a free throw
Partial Physical Assistance	Place the athlete in the proper position	Golf: coach adjusts the athlete's hands on the golf club with the correct grip
Full Physical Assistance	Help the athlete through the entire motion of the skill	Bowling: coach moves the athlete's arm through the entire bowling movement

Psychological Considerations



Motivation

Goal: Help athletes maintain or grow interest

Perception

Goal: Help athletes understand the sport in which they are participating

Comprehension

Goal: Help athletes remember and perform the skill they have learned

Social/Medical Considerations



Seizures – How can I assist?

1. Create a safe space around the athlete
2. Protect the head and neck
3. Lay them on their side

Can someone with physical disabilities also compete in Special Olympics?

Social/Medical Considerations



With many of our athlete's conditions, they may succeed more with performance tasks rather than verbal tasks. (ADHD consideration!!)

Approximately 20% of our athletes have an autism diagnosis, with about half also being non-verbal.

Medical Considerations Table



Diagnosis	Consideration
Seizure Disorder	Be prepared to protect and observe the athlete should a seizure occur and minimize adverse affects
Autism spectrum disorder	Understand that athletes may engage in self-stimulatory behavior (hand-flapping, jumping, etc.), and that it is not necessarily a problem
Attention deficit/hyperactivity (ADHD)	Shorten drills and provide one-to-one assistance when needed
Down Syndrome	Family should ensure the athlete is screened for Atlanto-axial instability (see medical if necessary)
Fetal alcohol syndrome	Demonstrate clear performance tasks

Preparing for Competition



Provide accurate qualifying times/scores, and skills assessment scores.

Make sure that you know the rules.

Teach your athletes the rules and, during training, phase out your verbal reminders about rules.

At competition, coaches may have little or no opportunity to assist athletes when they are not following the rules. (A coach cannot be on the track with them!)

Preparing for Competition

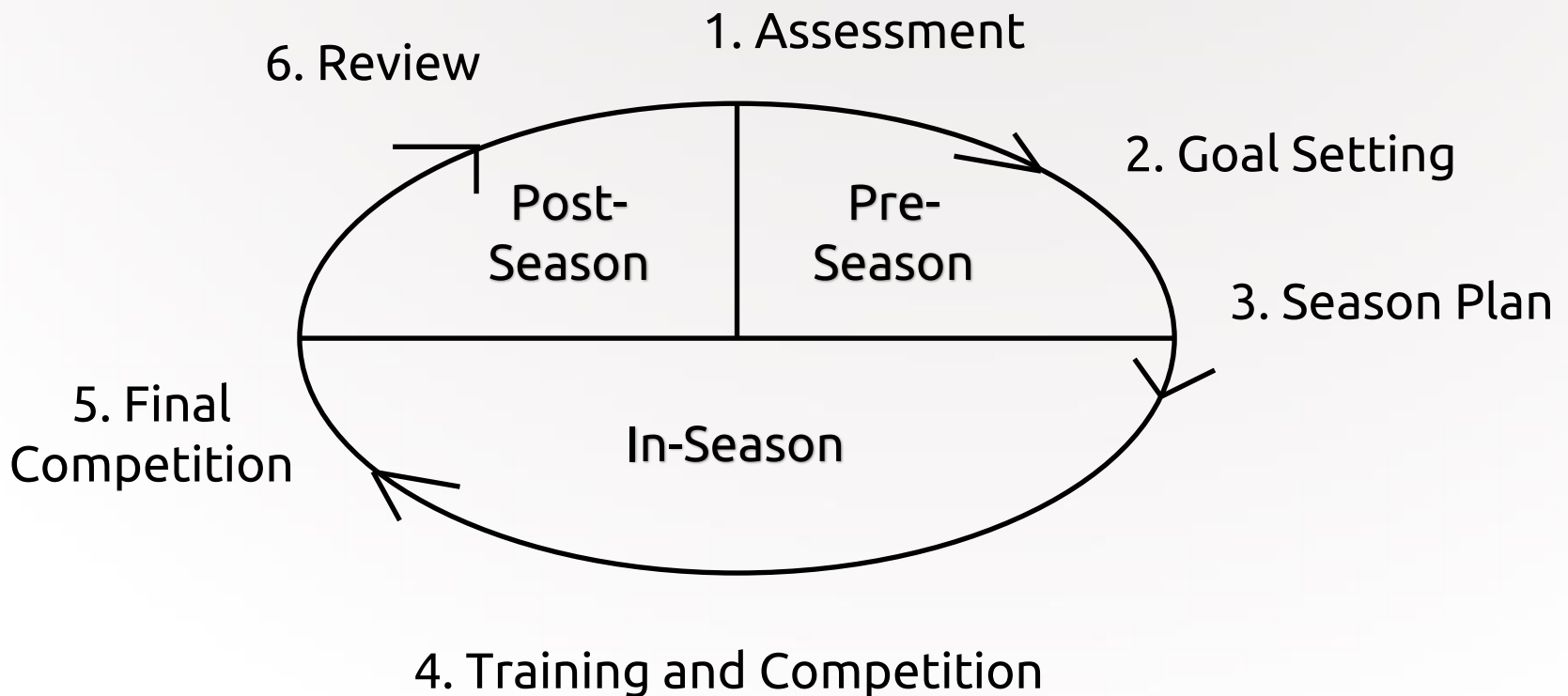


Create a supervision document to share with coaching staff!

There is a lot going on outside of the actual competition, including:

- Transportation
- Lodging
- Social activities
- Healthy Athletes
- Awards ceremonies
- Multiple events at the same time

Season Cycle



Competition-Day Coaching



Early arrival time – allows for more planning, getting uniforms ready, and understanding the venue layout

Check-in with athletes on attire and equipment

Set groundwork for how athletes should behave independently and focus on a growth mindset, even at competitions

When there is a reason, it is okay for you, as a head coach, to protest with an official in a calm matter. Seek to learn, not always to change!

Managing Athlete Behavior



Athlete Behavior	Strategies to Improve Learning
Swimmer has a short attention span	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Focus on a stroke for short periods of time2. Provide multiple activities focusing on same task
Basketball athlete yells if they miss a shot	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Emphasize the other parts of the game2. Work on shooting drills without a hoop, then evolve to shooting at a hoop
Bowler doesn't wait for their turn	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Have a coach at the lane help with the order of bowlers, explain whose turn it is2. Emphasize that the bowler will always follow the same person

Managing the Program



A successful Special Olympics coaching staff is:

- Knowledgeable about the sport, rules, and competition details.
- An understanding of the mission of Special Olympics.
- Always recruiting new coaches and seeking opportunities to learn more about their sport.
- Focusing on including families, caretakers, and the community.
- Emphasizing safety and offering activities for all ability levels.

SOMN Health Programs



Fit5

- Plan for physical activity, nutrition and hydration
 - 5 fruits and vegetables a day
 - 5 bottles of water a day
 - 5 days of physical activity a week
- Fitness cards offer exercises to challenge abilities. These can be done at practice, the gym and home.
- Seasonal pledge challenges for teams offer incentives and resources.

SOMN Health Programs



SOFit

- Comprehensive health and wellness program focusing on four pillars of wellness: emotional, physical, nutritional, and social.
- Resources and funds provided to delegation or organization
- To learn more about Fit5 or SOFit, or get some of these resources, reach out to our Health Programs Coordinator!
- Jack Dobbs – Jack.Dobbs@somn.org

Level 2 Golf Session



This training will cover:

- Rules of Competition

- Events we offer

- Resources

If you would prefer to read the handbook, it is linked below this video, and covers the same information.

Rules



Gameplay Rules

- Traditional golfers can compete in the 3-hole or 9-hole event.
- Athletes can expect to ride in a cart during competition, although the carts will be driven by another person.
- The most strokes that can be taken on any hole is 9.
 - If an athlete has not holed the ball after 9 strokes, a score of 9X is recorded on the scorecard.
 - When this happens, the ball should be picked up and the hole will not be completed.

Rules



Unified Alternate Shot Team Play

- Designed to give the athlete an opportunity for transition from skills to individual play.
- Athletes will tee off one more time than the Unified partner.
- Unified partner can assist with club selection, teeing the ball, and alignment.
- Unified partner will serve as the cart driver.

Caddies



- Caddies will no longer be provided by Special Olympics Minnesota.
- Caddies may be provided by each delegation for any athlete and must be registered as a coach.
- Volunteers will still be provided for each tee time to be a scorekeeper.

Individual Skills Rules



Skills

- Short Putt
 - Long Putt
 - Chip Shot
 - Pitch Shot
 - Iron Shot
 - Wood Shot
-
- The setup and rules for skills can be found on pages 6-12 of the Special Olympics International rules.

Individual Skills Rules



Each skills station consists of 5 attempts, with athletes eligible to score 0-4 points per each shot.

For an athlete to compete in a 9-hole event (traditional or Unified alternate shot), they must have an individual skills score of 40 or higher at a previous regional or state competition.

This rule helps with our pace of play at competition.

Competition Details



Closed Competition Information

- Regional and state competitions are closed competitions, which means that coaches, parents, and guardians can walk along the course, but cannot coach the athletes.
- The competitions are for athletes and partners to show what they have learned through practices.

Registration



Registration is done online by head coaches or head of delegations.

Athletes are allowed to compete in one event.

When a coach registers their athletes and partners, they must submit the following:

- Qualifying score for each athlete/partner in the event they are registered in.
- Coaches on the team.
- Updated paperwork for those that need it.

Practice, Skill Development & Resources



- Special Olympics Minnesota wants to make sure that you have confidence in your knowledge of the golf rules.
- Below this video, you will find links to other resources available including:
 - SOMN Golf Handbook
 - SOMN Golf Page
 - SOI Golf Coaching Guide
- Any questions? Contact sports@somn.org.