

Roles and Expectations of Brookline Special Olympics

Unified Player: A unified player (or UP) is a volunteer that plays alongside athletes as part of the team. Depending on the needs of the team, unified players can act as an “on-the-court coach” to help direct players during the game. As a unified player, your primary responsibilities will include, but not limited to

1. Submit Class A form to Program coordinator, and perform any training required by Special Olympics Massachusetts
2. Attend 75% of practices
3. Attend 100% of games
4. Show up to practice at least 30 minutes early
5. Represent Brookline Recreation, Brookline Special Olympics and Special Olympics Massachusetts in a positive manner, during and outside of practice and events
6. Support coaches with setup and breakdown of practice
7. Suggest new coaches or volunteers to program coordinator
8. Follow all Brookline Recreation and Special Olympics Massachusetts rules and polices
9. Maintain athlete/volunteer confidentiality and boundaries
10. Mandated reporter
11. Communicate with Head Coach and Program Coordinators if any questions about responsibilities or any concerns arise

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Assistant Coach: An assistant coach is a volunteer who works with the head coach to coordinate practices and chaperone games. An assistant coach should be someone who has a good understanding of the game and a decent ability to communicate with athletes/volunteers. Your main responsibilities will include, but not limited to

1. Submit Class A form to Program coordinator, and perform any training required by Special Olympics Massachusetts
2. Attend 90% of practices
3. Attend 100% of games
4. Show up to practice at least 30 minutes early
5. Assist with the set-up and management of drills during practices
6. Lead practice/game if the head coach is unable to attend
7. Assist with assigning positions and managing minor athlete conflicts
8. Assist with the completion of athlete rating forms
9. Demonstrate and encourage sportsmanship among athletes during practices/games
10. Complete athlete/volunteer incident reports as needed
11. Represent Brookline Recreation, Brookline Special Olympics and Special Olympics Massachusetts in a positive manner, during and outside of practice and events
12. Suggest coaches or volunteers to program coordinator, as needed
13. Follow all Brookline Recreation and Special Olympics Massachusetts rules and policies
14. Maintain athlete/volunteer confidentiality and boundaries
15. Mandated reporter
16. Communicate with Program Coordinators if any questions about responsibilities or any concerns arise

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Head Coach: A head coach is a volunteer who will coordinate practices, develop plays (as appropriate) and act as the primary contact regarding all athletic information. A head coach should be someone who is first-aid/CPR certified, ideally has previous coaching/playing experience, is confident in his or her own knowledge of the game, and has a strong ability to communicate/explain the rules of the game to athletes/volunteers of all abilities. A head coach is also someone who is comfortable in a leadership position and willing/able to think and act independently. Lastly, as a head coach, you should be comfortable handling athlete conflicts and behaviors should they arise. Your primary responsibilities will include, but not limited to:

1. Submit Class A form to Program coordinator, and preform any training required by Special Olympics Massachusetts
2. Attend 90% of practices
3. Attend 100% of games
4. Show up to practice at least 30 minutes early
5. Develop/lead drills for each practice
6. Point of contact at practice
7. Send out reminder emails to athletes and answer email questions from athletes
8. Take team attendance
9. Communicate with other coaches and referees at games, as needed
10. Keep medical binder at all times during practices, games and Special Olympics events
11. Assign positions to athletes/volunteers
12. Complete athlete/volunteer rating forms
13. Act as the primary contact/communicator for all team information (maintain regular contact with the Therapeutic Recreation Specialist regarding all league information and any incidents)
14. Turn in all Medical Forms and Class A Volunteer Forms to Program Coordinator
15. Demonstrate and encourage sportsmanship among athletes (and other volunteers) during practices/games
16. Complete athlete/volunteer incident reports as needed
17. Inform Program Coordinators of additional equipment requests
18. Behavior management
19. First Aid and CPR Training
20. Suggest coaches or volunteers to program coordinator, as needed
21. Represent Brookline Recreation, Brookline Special Olympics and Special Olympics Massachusetts in a positive manner, during and outside of practice and events
22. Assist Program Coordinator in creation team rosters to submit to Special Olympics

23. Follow all Brookline Recreation and Special Olympics Massachusetts rules and polices
24. Provide housing suggestions for overnight tournaments to program coordinator
25. Maintain athlete/volunteer confidentiality and boundaries
26. Mandated reporter
27. Communicate with Program Coordinators if any questions about responsibilities or any concerns arise