



Medical Volunteer Role

Medical volunteers serve in a first response capacity at Special Olympics North Carolina events. They advise and provide aide for injuries and medical conditions. If an emergency arises, medical volunteers are to call 9-1-1.

Who Qualifies as a Medical Volunteer?

Medical volunteers should be certified health care professionals, such as doctors, PAs, nurses, EMT/Fire personnel, athletic trainers. Students training in a health care profession may volunteer alongside a certified professional.

Primary Issues Medical Volunteers See

- Typical sport-related injuries
- Potentially advising on medication
 - a large percentage of athletes take a number of medications
- Seizures
 - these can be more common with people with intellectual disabilities.
- Heat-related illnesses – particularly at the Summer Games
 - athletes are on medication that makes them more susceptible to heat.

Considerations When Working with Special Olympics Athletes

- Special Olympics training and competition is open to every person with an intellectual disability who is at least eight years of age. There is no maximum age limit.
- Any individual who has been diagnosed as having an [intellectual disability](#) by a medical professional or agency may participate in Special Olympics.
- Some athletes have an aversion to visual or auditory stimulus.
- A number of athletes will require the use of a wheelchair.
- Some athletes will present as non-verbal
- Special Olympics uses “person- first” language. This means putting the person before the disability.

Interested in learning more?

Email us at health@sonc.net

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