

League Volunteer Roles & Responsibilities

Local **flag football or soccer** leagues are made up of Special Olympics teams and athletes from the surrounding communities. A league site may serve multiple purposes

- Organized weekly competition between flag football or soccer teams in the area
- Organized flag football or soccer skills curriculum for new or lower skilled athletes that are not on teams or not ready for team play
- Organized young athletes sessions for athletes ages 2-7 and 6-12. Young athletes sessions serve as introduction to play and movement and in step II (ages 6-12) an introduction to flag football or soccer

A local league site may run from 4-12 weeks depending on the number of teams and athletes in a given area

Site Coordinator:

- Must be ages 21 or older.
- All knowledge of responsibilities included with being a flag football or soccer skills center coach & in game volunteer (*descriptions below*).
- Help identify and recruit potential volunteer groups to help each week of the program.
- Ability to train and delegate responsibilities to volunteers and officials when they arrive on site.
- Help in the process of identifying a space to host a regional league (*gymnasium, outdoor field, school, etc.*)
- Help promote certain aspects of the program, by sharing a flyer through different channels within the community. All participants will register through the Special Olympics Massachusetts website.
- Coordinate equipment kit, volunteer t-shirts & league, skills, young athlete awards pick up with Special Olympics Massachusetts staff prior to week 1 of the site start date.
- Manage all aspects of site each week such as:
 - Volunteer engagement
 - Keeping venue on schedule
 - Altering schedule as needed
 - Registration check-in table each week before the activities begin. This includes managing the COVID pre-screening protocols of each volunteer, athlete and parent in attendance, collecting and verifying any and all participant information.
 - Enforcing spectator guidance
 - Post weekly standings in venue
- Collect and report results for each session and notes and submit to Special Olympics Massachusetts. Results include
 - Final scores of all games
 - Player statistics
 - Skills and young athlete scores if required
- Report any concerns, violations, incidents to Special Olympics Massachusetts
- Individual is a representative of Special Olympics Massachusetts and thus is tasked with interpreting and enforcing Special Olympics Massachusetts policies and sport rules

Skills and Young Athletes Coach Responsibilities:

- Must be ages 16 or older.
- Experience working with children with intellectual disabilities preferred but not required.
- Willing to drive up to 30-45 minutes, one day a week, for a 6-8 week time frame (varies by program site).
- Attend one of the scheduled **{inset sport}** coaches trainings hosted by Special Olympics Massachusetts staff on Zoom.
- Lead-up preparation to a weekly skills program:
 - Continue to familiarize oneself with the activity guide and other resources which will be introduced during the training.
- Day of responsibilities:
 - Set up equipment stations and layout of the activities according to weekly session plan.
 - Be flexible with making adaptations and modifications to activities or equipment based upon the abilities of participants.
 - Ensure each athlete is able to participate at their own pace.
 - Allow the Athletes to take on leadership roles during each session as you see fit (leading songs, warm up stretches, etc.).
- After each session, make announcements to parents about futures sessions and what to expect.
- Make note of the skills that were challenging and should be worked on again in the next session.
- Provide resources and information to encourage family members to continue practicing the activities with their children at home. Additional resources can be provided by the Special Olympics Massachusetts staff upon request.

In Game Volunteers

- Experience with and basic understanding or the sport of flag football or soccer is preferred but not required
- Keep time and score
- Keep player statistics
 - Statistics to vary by sport
- Report final score and in game statistics to site coordinator