



## **Attendance, Transportation and Arrival/Pick-up of Athletes**

**Attendance:** "The purpose of Special Olympics is to provide sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympics type sports....." To that end, athletes are encouraged to attend all practices. Attendance at a minimum of 80% of the practices and participation in at least two competitions are required to be eligible for any state competition. No where is this more critical than in team sports where the athletes must learn to operate as a team. Athletes who can not make this commitment and wish to participate simply for recreational purposes have the option to participate in individual sports or individual skills for those team sports that have them (e.g., basketball, softball and soccer).

**Transportation:** SOHO is not a babysitting or respite care provider. It is not the responsibility of the coach, coordinator, or any other SOHO volunteer to transport an athlete to and/or from practices. These volunteers give willingly of their time; to serve beyond the practice time for your convenience is inconsiderate. If you can not commit to transporting your athlete (either on your own or by making car pooling arrangements) you will need to reconsider your athlete's participation in that sport.

**Arrival/Pick-up of Athletes:** Parents or chaperones must escort their athlete into the practice location and must leave a contact phone number if they are not staying for the practice or competition. Everyone must return 15 minutes prior to the end of practice. Additionally, outdoor practices are subject to unpredictable weather and parents/chaperones must stay on site if the weather is questionable. This will allow the coordinator the ability to contact the parent/chaperone in the event that practices ends early or if there is an issue with the athlete. This will also prevent athletes from being dropped off at practice locations when the practice has been moved or cancelled. Although contact information is provided in the online registration, the person responsible for the drop off/pick up of athletes sometimes changes from week to week. Having a sign out sheet will provide the coordinator the contact information applicable for each practice or competition.