

Standard 3: Program event housing

Special Olympics has the responsibility and obligation to protect the safety and well-being of all athletes and volunteers at overnight events.

- Areas may elect to commute to Special Olympics Virginia events as day participants. Athletes, partners and coaches should attend all special events such as opening and closing ceremonies, the dance and other activities in order to provide the full Olympic experience. Areas may have all or a part of their delegation participate as day participants. The athlete/coach ratio minimum of 4 to 1 still applies to day participants.
- All coaches, chaperones, partners and athletes must be registered as part of the delegation and considered eligible in accordance with Special Olympics Virginia's eligibility policies in order to stay in overnight housing.
- Areas may not exceed two people per room for any overnight housing related to Special Olympics events. An exception is made for immediate family members or guardians who are registered members of the delegation and are staying in a room with only other family members.
- Male athletes and partners age 14 and under must be housed only with male athletes and partners age 14 and under, chaperones or coaches. An exception is made for immediate family members or guardians who are registered members of the delegation and are staying in a room with only other family members.
- Female athletes and partners age 14 and under must be housed only with female athletes and partners age 14 and under, chaperones or coaches. An exception is made for immediate family members or guardians who are registered members of the delegation and are staying in a room with only other family members.
- Male athletes and partners age 15 and older must be housed only with male athletes and partners age 15 and older, chaperones or coaches. An exception is made for immediate family members or guardians who are registered members of the delegation and are staying in a room with only other family members.
- Female athletes and partners age 15 and older must be housed only with female athletes and partners age 15 and older, chaperones or coaches. An exception is made for immediate family members or guardians who are registered members of the delegation and are staying in a room with only other family members.
- The minimum chaperone ratio of one chaperone to four athletes must be maintained for all overnight events.
- Unregistered family members and friends are not permitted to stay with the delegation.
- Recreational swimming, which is any swimming or swimming-like activities that occur outside of sanctioned Special Olympics swimming or water-based sports (sailing, kayaking, canoeing, stand up paddle boarding) training or competition, is prohibited at Special Olympics Virginia events.