

Standard 3: Program event housing

The health and safety of all Special Olympics participants is of paramount importance to Special Olympics. Participants should feel that every Special Olympics event is a safe and positive experience and should not be fearful of other athletes, coaches or volunteers. Special Olympics Virginia area programs and staff are required to meet the minimum policy requirements as outlined below for all events that have overnight housing.

- 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. It is up to the Area to decide if they will participate as day participants. 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 athletes and volunteers participating as registered overnight participants at statewide competitions must stay in housing arranged by SOVA.
- Male athletes must be housed only with male athletes, chaperones or coaches. An exception is made for immediate family members or guardians (spouses and parents with children) staying in a room by themselves.
- Female athletes must be housed only with female athletes, chaperones or coaches. An exception is made for immediate family members or guardians staying in a room by themselves.
- Athletes (male or female) 14 years of age and under must be housed only with athletes 14 years of age and under. An exception is made for immediate family members or guardians staying in a room by themselves.
- Athletes (male or female) 15 years and older must be housed only with athletes 15 years of age and older. An exception is made for immediate family members or guardians staying in a room by themselves.
- All chaperones 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.
- 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.