



MEDICAL VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Special Olympics Illinois (SOILL) is accredited by Special Olympics Inc. to oversee all programming and fundraising activities referenced as Special Olympics within the State of Illinois. Volunteer recruitment is a significant aspect for successful program delivery. General and specialized volunteers are the backbone of all SOILL competitions and activities. Individuals with medical certification/licensing are crucial to the safety and wellbeing of all SOILL participants.

How is a Special Olympics medical volunteer covered in the event of a liability suit?

- The Special Olympics Inc. policy provides insurance coverage for medical malpractice claims for medical services rendered at Special Olympics events by state-registered medical/ health professionals who are registered Special Olympics volunteers, other than doctors, acting in the capacity of a Special Olympics Registered Volunteer. Coverage is not provided for doctors. Commercial medical service firms volunteering the services of their paid employees are not covered. However, should any of these employees volunteer their services on a personal basis, separate from their employment status, coverage would be extended provided such person is not a doctor and is a Special Olympics Registered Volunteer in accordance with the Special Olympics Official General Rules or other Special Olympics policies in effect during the policy period.
- **Medical Malpractice Coverage & Limits:**
Each Claim \$1,000,000
Aggregate \$3,000,000
Deductible - each claim \$2,500
NOTE: Medical Malpractice coverage for Healthy Athletes and MedFest volunteer physicians volunteering their time at a Special Olympics event is provided under a separate policy.
- Please note that neither a medical nor general volunteers are protected from liability if it is determined that they were negligent in their duties or actions under the scope of the medical volunteers' professional credentials. Additionally, all medical volunteers are deemed as "First Responders" and are protected under the Civil Immunities (745 ILCS 49/) Good Samaritan Act of Illinois as stated: In the State of Illinois, the statute says that any licensed medical professional "who, in good faith, provides emergency care without fee to a person, shall not, as a result of his or her acts or omissions, except willful or wanton misconduct on the part of the person, in providing the care, be liable for civil damages."
Illinois General Assembly



What is the scope of practice for Special Olympic Illinois medical volunteers?

- Medical volunteers adhere to the parameters of the level of care or scope of practice that their specific licensing/certification allows within the State of Illinois and the regulations set forth by the governing body in which the individual is volunteering for. It is the medical volunteer's responsibility to know the scope of practice they are licensed/certified to provide.
- Special Olympics, Inc. does NOT allow medical volunteers, regardless of their licensing/certification to dispense prescription or over-the-counter medications. This applies even if the athlete, coach, volunteer, etc. has their own medication and requests that a medical volunteer administer it. This also applies to athletes, coaches, volunteers or family members presenting a physician order of administration by a medical professional.
- Medical volunteers are allowed to apply over-the-counter first aid ointments, creams, sprays, eye wash, etc. that are typically used to treat cuts, scrapes or other basic injuries.
- SOILL provides appropriate first aid supplies that medical volunteers use when treating participants at SOILL events.

Does each athlete have a Consent to Treat document that is signed by an athlete of legal capabilities, parent or guardian with them at each event?

- Yes, participants must submit an Application for Participation (attached).
- SOILL requires an updated form every two years.

What actions has Special Olympics Illinois done to protect the "medical volunteers" and the organization from any legal action?

- SOILL is compliant with all Special Olympics Inc. accreditation requirements and all insurance requirements are updated yearly.
- SOILL has a medical committee with diverse licensing/certification representation. The committee works with SOILL staff to review event needs, medical coverage protocols, emergency action plans, medical supply on-site needs, medical volunteer needs and orientation, etc. to ensure medical professionals are effectively guiding SOILL specific to medical coverage needs.
- SOILL reviews all submitted Applications for Participation to ensure all requirements are met and then enters needed information into a database used to generate needed medical reports used on-site at events. Reports provide medical information for each athlete competing at the event and these reports are accessible to medical volunteers.
- SOILL staff work with the medical committee to review emergency action plans to ensure proper risk management planning to limit the need for medical support and to ensure Emergency Services are ready to respond if needed.



- All volunteers are required to register to volunteer at SOILL events. The medical committee follows-up with new medical volunteers to verify their medical training and determine how best to utilize the individual at events they cover.
- The medical person overseeing an event conducts an on-site orientation focused on treatment within the scope a volunteer is licensed/certified to provide; reminders about do's and don'ts, information specific to that event, etc. Veteran medical volunteers talk with new volunteers to provide tips on differences in assessing and treating Special Olympics athletes.
- When size of event and volunteer support allows, SOILL staff work with medical committee to ensure diversity of medical coverage at event and specific venues.
- SOILL staff work with the medical committee to ensure needed medical supplies are on-site for events.