

Who is eligible for housing at Special Olympics Utah's competitive events?

Housing is provided to delegations attending a State-level competition if the Head of Delegation ("home base" of the delegation) is more than 75 miles from the host facility. Special Olympics Utah believes this provides an equitable and practical way to ensure that it is not a hardship for teams to participate in State-level events.

A delegation may qualify for a second (or third, event dependent) if the delegation is more than 150 miles from the host facility. This may be scheduled for either the day before competition or the day the event ends at the discretion of the Head of Delegation.

If your delegation has a particular issue or situation that may need special consideration, please contact your Field Service Coordinator or Regional Sports Manager for additional information or to make a special request.

Housing Policy

The Head of Delegation is required to provide a housing list to the Special Olympics Utah office that follows the following guidelines:

1. **Gender** – Athletes and volunteers (coaches and Heads of Delegation) may not share a room with another person of the opposite sex. The following exceptions to this rule are allowed:
 - a. Married athletes who are both attending the event as members of a registered delegation AND if this does not create additional room needs for the delegation.
 - b. Married volunteers who are both attending the event as members of a registered delegation AND if this does not create additional room needs for the delegation.
 - i. This exception does not apply if one of the volunteers is required to share a room with the married couple's child) as this scenario will create a situation whereby an athlete is housed with a volunteer of the opposite sex.
 - c. Family members of the opposite sex who serve as a one-to-one chaperone for the related athlete.
 - d. When housing that is in a private facility that has multiple private rooms in addition to living space (such as condominiums or dormitories) both males and females may be assigned to one condominium or dormitory if necessary, but private rooms (sleeping rooms) must not be shared by individuals of the opposite sex. Chaperones must also be housed in the condominium and the chaperone/athlete ratio as outlined in the supervision section of the policy must be maintained.

Supervision – The chaperone/athlete ratio of at least one properly registered chaperone (coach or Head of Delegation) to every four athletes must be maintained during overnight events. Proper supervision may be maintained without having a chaperone present in every sleeping room. All chaperones (coaches and Heads of Delegation) must be screened in accordance with the Special Olympics US and Special Olympics Utah policy and procedure.

- a. If an athlete is required to have one-on-one supervision due to medical/behavior issues, please notify Special Olympics Utah to obtain approval for the additional room needs. These are determined on a case-by-case basis
2. **Young Athletes** – If a Young Athletes event involves overnight activities require increased supervision, and therefore, each Young Athletes participant must be accompanied by a properly registered and screened parent, guardian, or an individual designated by the parent/guardian for all overnight activities. Rooming assignments for the remainder of the delegation should be kept necessary (as possible) from Young Athletes.

Best Practices

1. **Rooming assignments** – if athletes will be sharing a room, following is a list of other items to consider when making room assignments:
 - a. Consider matching athletes based on size, level of maturity, ability, and age.
 - b. Assign connecting rooms to those athletes who require additional assistance or supervision if the chaperone will not be in the same room.
2. **Sleeping Arrangements** – Whenever possible, each member of the delegation should be assigned his/her own bed. If bed sharing is required, an athlete may not share a bed with a chaperone unless the chaperone is a parent or sibling of the athlete and has been screened in compliance with the Special Olympics US and Special Olympics Utah policy and procedure. The following techniques may be used to help reduce the number of athletes required to share beds:
 - a. Request cots from the facility to increase the number of beds available.
 - b. Utilize air mattresses to increase the number of beds available (be sure to check with the facility to ensure there is not a policy against air mattresses).