

Section 5000 HEALTH & SAFETY
Topic: TRANSPORTATION
Effective Date: September 2003
Board Approved Date: March 2026
Scheduled Review: March 2029

PURPOSE:

To ensure the safety of athletes and coaches by requiring that all transportation to Special Olympics Manitoba events is conducted by legally qualified drivers in properly licensed vehicles, following provincial laws and organizational guidelines.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all transportation of athletes and coaches to and from Special Olympics Manitoba programs, competitions, and events, including travel by personal vehicles, buses, and other modes of transport arranged or approved by the organization.

POLICY:

Special Olympics Manitoba complies with Manitoba driver licensing laws.

Drivers for Special Olympics Manitoba must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driver's license.

All vehicles used to transport athletes must be legally registered, insured, and maintained in a safe, roadworthy condition according to Manitoba provincial regulations.

Athletes are expected to arrange their own transportation to and from regular programs.

For competitions and special events, Head Coaches must verify that all drivers have valid licenses prior to departure.

When transporting athletes, the following safety precautions must be observed:

- Follow the "Rule of Two" — ensure at least two people are present in the vehicle at all times with athletes.
- Obtain approval from parents or caregivers for all rides.
- Ensure athletes are dropped off at a designated pick and drop-off zone.
- For trips over two hours, the coach should contact the SOM Director of Sport to determine the safest mode of transportation.

For bus travel:

- Bus travel to competitions is arranged by Special Olympics Manitoba. Trips over 1.5 hours must have a washroom on board.
- Travel decisions will follow Manitoba 511 and provincial road condition advisories, as well as recommendations from the transportation company.
- Travel cancellations or changes will be communicated at least 24 hours before departure by Special Olympics Manitoba staff.

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In the event of an accident, contact the athlete's parent/caregiver immediately and notify Special Olympics Manitoba as soon as possible.