



To: Special Olympics Georgia Agencies and Volunteers

Date: 4/7/2023

Thank you for your continued support of the athletes involved in the Special Olympics Georgia program, we appreciate your time and dedication.

Special Olympics Georgia has adopted some changes to our background screening policy for Class A Volunteers (See below list/descriptions of Class A Volunteers).

Our background screening policy is as follows:

All Class A volunteers will need to have a current, clear background screening on file with the Special Olympics Georgia state office. From the date of completion of the screening, each background screening will be valid for 3 years. After 3 years, the current background screening will cease to be valid, and a new background screening will be required before said volunteer can continue in any Class A volunteer position or activity with Special Olympics Georgia.

The only background screenings that will be accepted by Special Olympics Georgia, in order to be considered a Class A volunteer, are those screenings procured from an approved vendor through Special Olympics Georgia. Currently, the only approved vendor is Sterling Volunteers, Inc.

Effective as of May 2, 2022, Special Olympics Georgia will no longer cover the cost of a Class A volunteer's background screening. The entire cost of one background screening through Sterling Volunteers, Inc. is \$5.00 which is to be paid by the Class A volunteer requiring the background screening. This cost will be required at the time the background screening is ordered from Sterling Volunteers, Inc. Ordering of the background screening will be completed by the Class A volunteer on the Sterling Volunteer, Inc. website. Special Olympics Georgia will provide the Class A volunteer with the website link or via an e-mail invite from Sterling Volunteers, Inc. Before said volunteer will be allowed to submit his/her order online, the \$5.00 payment will be required. The web link and Good Deed code (**7n9744i**) provided in the e-mail invite must be utilized for the background screening to be linked with Special Olympics Georgia's account.

Once a background screening has been reviewed by Sterling Volunteers, Inc., a report will be provided automatically to the Class A volunteer and to Special Olympics Georgia via the secure online account through Sterling Volunteers, Inc.

Volunteer positions that are required to be Class A status are as follows:

- Local Coordinators
- Area Management Team members
- Local Management Team members
- Certified coaches
- State Games, Games Organizing Committee Members
- Bus drivers, nurses, chaperones, unified partners and any other volunteer attending a State Competition with a Special Olympics Georgia delegation.

If you have additional questions, please email Elizabeth Joyce:

Elizabeth.Joyce@specialolympicsga.org