Purpose:

To provide clear direction in an aquatics facility when coaching an athlete who is on medication for their convulsive disorder.

It is imperative that coaches inform volunteers of those athletes at risk in the water and the proper procedures to follow. (Special Olympics Manitoba, 1986)

LIFE GUARDS HAE COMPLETE AUTHORITY.

When in the pool

- If working in deep water in small/large groups, athlete must wear a life jacket.
- If working in deep water 1-1 with a volunteer, a life jacket is mandatory. Volunteers must be aware that athletes may seizure at any time.
- Unattended swimmers in the shallow end must be in life jackets.
- This policy also applies to individuals who are in the midst of having their medication for seizures changed.

PROCEDURES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO SEIZURE IN THE POOL

Deep Water

- Keep the head above the water.
- Move the individual to the side of the pool, bulkhead, or to the shallow end.
- Have a coach enter the water and do a body support by holding on to the edge of the pool and support the individual under his/her head with their legs.
- Wait until the seizure has run its course before attempting to remove he individual from the pool.

Shallow Water

- Keep the head above the water.
- Have a coach assist by supporting the back in a fireman's carry until the seizure has run its course.
- Remove the individual from the pool after the seizure is finished.

After a seizure

- Do not allow the individual to return to the program after the seizure and notify the caregivers.