Purpose:

To ensure a safe pool environment for all individuals participating in a Special Olympics program or competition.

LIFE GUARDS HAVE COMPLETE AUTHORITY

- Ensure there are enough guards for the number of individuals in the pool.
- Ensure that everyone knows who the lifeguard is, and what he or she looks like.
- Ensure that all the guards are in position to watch the pool at all times.
- Guards must not be instructors at the same time. The role of the lifeguard is to watch the entire pool area. They cannot teach and life guard at the same time.
- Always indicate to the guard, which of your athletes are seizure prone every time you run a program.
- Lifejackets must be certified by Transport Canada (found on the inside of the jacket). Personal flotation devices (PFD) are not acceptable.
- Guards are not there to assist in the transport of athletes in and out of the pool. Ensure that your volunteers are properly trained in the carriage of athletes out of chairs and into the water.
- Wheelchair athletes who have problems in maintaining a good head position in the water MUST be accompanied by a coach while in the pool (one to one).
- Head Coaches must know the proper procedures for individuals with seizures in the pool and train their assistant coaches (section 5000-3).
- When attending events and staying overnight in a hotel or motel the swimming pool is out of bounds, to EVERYONE, if a certified guard is not present. A certified guard must have a minimum of bronze cross, first aid and CPR. A coach who is a certified guard cannot act as a guard and supervisor at the same time.

Shower and locker rooms

- Athletes must be supervised at all times. A lone personnel should not be in the dressing room with athletes while they are showering or changing; two adults should be present at all times.