



## Coach Code of Conduct

All Special Olympics Coaches agree to observe the following code:

### Respect for others

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, unified partners, coaches, other volunteers, friends and spectators in Special Olympics.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability. I will be a positive role model for the athletes and unified partners I coach.

### Ensure a positive experience

- I will ensure that for each athlete I coach, the time spent with Special Olympics is a positive. I will respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each athlete.
- I will ensure each athlete competes in events that challenge that athlete's potential and are appropriate to that athlete's ability.
- I will be fair, considerate and honest with athletes and communicate with athletes using simple, clear language.
- I will ensure that accurate scores are provided for entry of an athlete into any event.
- I will instruct each athlete to perform to the best of the athlete's ability at all preliminary competition and finals competition in accordance with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.

### Act professionally and take responsibility for my actions

- My language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved in the sport (athletes, coaches, opponents, officials, administrators, parents, spectators, media, etc.).
- I will encourage athletes to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I will not drink alcohol, smoke or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics at training sessions or during competition.
- I will refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes and others, including verbal, physical and emotional abuse.
- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care.

### Quality service to the athletes

- I will seek continual improvement through performance evaluation and ongoing coach education. I will be knowledgeable about the Sports Rules and skills of the sport (s) I coach.
- I will provide a planned training program.
- I will keep copies of the medical, training, and competition records for each athlete I coach.
- I will follow the Special Olympics, the International Federation and the National Federation/Governing Body rules for my sport(s).

### Health and safety of the athletes

- I will ensure that the equipment and facilities are safe to use.
- I will ensure that the equipment, rules, training and the environment are appropriate for the age and ability of the athletes.
- I will review each athlete's medical form and be aware of any limitations on that athlete's participation noted on that form.
- I will encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required.
- I will maintain the same interest and support towards sick and injured athletes.
- I will allow further participation in training and competition only when appropriate.
- I understand that if I violate this Code of Conduct I will be subject to a range of consequence, up to and including being prohibited from coaching in Special Olympics

### Code of Conduct Violations

If a Special Olympics coach violates any part of the code of conduct, Special Olympics may impose disciplinary actions that could include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Verbal warning by officials, and/or County, State personnel,
- Suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file in the Local Program and SOWV Headquarters Office,
- Written warning,
- Season suspension and loss of sport certification,
- Suspended indefinitely.

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Coach Name

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Coach Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Local Program Director Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Local Program Director Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date