



Volunteer Code of Conduct

Special Olympics is committed to the highest ideals of sport and expects all volunteers to act in a manner that both contributes to the overall mission of Special Olympics and follows Special Olympics West Virginia policies.

All Special Olympics volunteers agree to observe the following code of conduct:

Sportsmanship and respect for others

- I will practice good sportsmanship, 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 as above.
- My language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will act in ways that bring respect to me, my coaches, my team and Special Olympics.
- I will not use inappropriate or offensive language, including swearing or insulting other individuals, in any form of communication.
- I will not fight with other athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, staff, family members or spectators.
- I will respect the rights and dignity of all athletes, Unified partners, coaches, volunteers, staff, family members, and spectators in Special Olympics.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of sex, gender identity, age, ethnic origin, religion or ability.

Ensure a positive experience

- I will ensure that Special Olympics is a positive experience for the athletes, coaches and volunteers.
- I will be fair, considerate and honest with athletes and communicate with athletes using simple, clear language.
- I will instruct each athlete to perform to the best of the athlete's ability at all trainings and competitions in accordance with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.

Act professionally and take responsibility for my actions

- I will provide for the general welfare, health and safety of any Special Olympics athlete in my charge.
- I will refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes and others, including inappropriate or unwanted sexual advances on others, verbal, physical and emotional abuse.
- I will tell Special Olympics West Virginia leadership immediately if I experience behavior or abuse from another member of Special Olympics and/or if I become aware of such behavior occurring between others.
- I will abide by the Special Olympics policy on the prohibition of coaches dating athletes.



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- I understand all telephone and electronic communications between me and other members of Special Olympics and the public must be appropriate and respectful.
- I understand that any social media connections I make on my personal social media accounts are my choice and I am completely responsible for all such communications and who I choose to friend/follow on social media.
- I will not send or share inappropriate images of a sexual or violent nature via email, text, or social media.
- I will not drink or possess alcohol, smoke (tobacco products or e-cigarette devices) or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics at training sessions, competition or during Games.
- I will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules.

Quality service to the athletes

- I will assist to provide the highest quality event possible.
- I will be a positive role model for the athletes in the program.

Health and safety of the athletes

- I will assist in ensuring that all equipment and facilities are safe to use.
- I will encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required.
- I will maintain the same interest and support towards sick and injured athletes as healthy athletes.
- I will allow further participation in training and competition after an illness or injury only when appropriate.
- I will assist when necessary making sure that prescribed medications and over-the-counter medications are taken at the proper times according to instructions given by the parent/guardian.

I understand that if I violate this Code of Conduct, I will be subject to a range of consequences, up to and including removal from Special Olympics West Virginia.

Full Name (Printed): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Local County Program: _____