

Coach and Volunteer Code of Conduct

Special Olympics is committed to the highest ideals of sport and expects all coaches and volunteers to honor sports and Special Olympics. All Special Olympics coaches and volunteers agree to observe the following code:

A. RESPECT FOR OTHERS

1. I will respect the rights, dignity, and worth of athletes, coaches, other volunteers, friends, and spectators in Special Olympics.
2. I will appreciate the full and active participation of talented individuals with diverse characteristics such as race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, type of disability, and marital status, as well as differences in personality, talents, experiences, education, and cultural and socio-economic background.
3. I will be a positive role model for the athletes I coach.

B. ENSURE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

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

C. ACT PROFESSIONALLY AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTION

1. My language, manner, preparation, appearance, and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
2. I will display control, respect, dignity, and professionalism to all involved in the sport (athletes, coaches, opponents, officials, administrators, parents, spectators, media, etc.), and encourage athletes to demonstrate the same qualities.
3. I understand all telephone and electronic communications between me and any other member of Special Olympics must be appropriate and respectful, including texting and social media.
4. I understand that any social media connections I make with delegation members 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.
5. I will not drink alcohol, smoke, or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics at training or during competition.
6. I will refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes and others, including verbal, physical, and emotional abuse.
7. I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care.

D. QUALITY SERVICE TO ATHLETES

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

E. HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE ATHLETES

1. I will ensure that the equipment and facilities at practice sites and events are safe to use.
2. I will ensure that the equipment, rules, training, and the environment are appropriate for the age and ability of the athletes.
3. I will review each athlete's Medical Form and be aware of any limitations on that athlete's participation noted on that form.
4. I will encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required.
5. 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 consequences, up to and including being prohibited from coaching in Special Olympics.

Printed Name

Signature

Date