



Special Olympics Maryland

CODES OF CONDUCT

MISSION OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for all persons eight years of age and older with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

CODES OF CONDUCT

Preamble

Each person that participates in Special Olympics shall conduct him/herself at all times and in all places in a manner that befits worthy representatives of Special Olympics. **The Codes of Conduct apply to all athletes, Unified® partners, volunteers, spectators and family members whenever:**

1. They are representing, participating in, or attending a Special Olympics sponsored and/or sanctioned activity. These activities shall include, but are not limited to, travel to and from training sessions, competitions and/or events at the local through International levels.
2. Their conduct would impact upon the Special Olympics Maryland, Inc. program and/or its athletes, Unified® partners, coaches, volunteers, staff and participants.

These Codes define what is expected of all participants in the Special Olympics program. Anyone with knowledge of prior violent episode(s) or witnessing a violation must report it promptly to the appropriate authority. Failure to adhere to the Codes can result in disciplinary action.

Special Olympics Maryland, Inc. has established guidelines to help define inappropriate behavior and how to handle current or past violations. It is imperative for everyone to use their best judgment in addressing situations involving the violation of the various Codes of Conduct within these guidelines. There will be situations that officials, coaches, volunteers, Unified partners, athletes or SOMD staff can handle without the need to go through a formal complaint and review process. However, there are also situations in which the infraction is so inherently dangerous or contrary to Special Olympics' principles as to warrant immediate action and suspension. Therefore, Special Olympics charges everyone responsible for the safety and well-being of athletes, Unified partners, other participants, and the public to take the reasonable action necessary to protect these diverse constituencies. Any immediate action taken will be binding on the offender until the appropriate Conduct Committee reviews the situation and renders a final decision. Special Olympics Maryland, Inc. has established procedures to ensure fairness in handling violations of the Codes of Conduct.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETE’S AND UNIFIED PARTNER’S CODE OF CONDUCT

Special Olympics is committed to the highest ideals of sport and expects all athletes and Unified partners to honor sports and Special Olympics. All Special Olympics athletes and Unified® partners agree to the following code:

SPORTSMANSHIP

- I will practice good sportsmanship.
- I will act in ways that bring respect to me, my coaches, my team, and Special Olympics. I will not use bad language.
- I will not swear or insult other persons.
- I will not fight with other athletes, coaches, volunteers, or staff.

TRAINING AND COMPETITION

- I will train regularly.
- I will learn and follow the rules of my sport.
- I will listen to my coaches and the officials and ask questions when I do not understand. I will always try my best during training, divisioning, and competitions.
- I will not “hold back” in preliminary competition just to get into an easier finals competition division.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS

- I will not make inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal, or sexual advance on others.
- I will not smoke or use vaping products (e-cigarettes, etc.) in non-smoking areas, including all Special Olympics training and competition venues.
- I will not use or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs (including cannabis products) at Special Olympics events. I will not take drugs for the purpose of improving my performance.
- I will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules, the International Federation and the National Federation/Governing Body rules for my sport (s).
- I understand that if I do not obey this Code of Conduct, I will be subject to a range of consequences by my Program or a Games Organizing Committee (GOC) for a World Games up to and including not being allowed to participate.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS COACH'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Special Olympics is committed to the highest ideals of sport and expects all coaches to honor Sport and Special Olympics. 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 or Unified partner I coach, the time spent with Special Olympics is a positive experience. I will respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each athlete and Unified partner.
- I will ensure each athlete and Unified partner competes in events that challenge their potential and are appropriate to their 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 or Unified partner into any event.
- I will instruct each athlete and Unified partner 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, Unified partners, coaches, opponents, officials, administrators, parents, spectators, media, etc.).
- I will not use my role as a coach and leader within Special Olympics to unduly influence athletes, family members or others in an inappropriate manner or for personal benefit.
- I will encourage athletes and Unified Partners to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I will not smoke or use vaping products (e-cigarettes, etc.) in non-smoking areas, including all Special Olympics training and competition venues.
- I will not use or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs (including cannabis products) while representing Special Olympics at training sessions or during competition.
- I will refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes, Unified partners and others, including verbal, physical and emotional abuse.
- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes and Unified partners in my care.

QUALITY SERVICE TO THE ATHLETES AND UNIFIED® PARTNERS

- 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 AND UNIFIED® PARTNERS

- 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 and Unified® partners.
- 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 and Unified® partners to seek medical advice when required.
- I will maintain the same interest and support towards sick and injured athletes and Unified® partners.
- 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.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS OFFICIAL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

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

- I will be thoroughly aware of Special Olympics conception, regulations and sports rules. I will perform my duty seriously, fairly, earnestly and accurately.
- I will be righteous, disciplined and impartial and stick to principles.
- I will be vigorous, dress properly, well-groomed and refrain from smoking/Vaping (using e-cigarettes, etc.) in the competition site.
- I will not use or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs (including cannabis products) while representing Special Olympics at training sessions or during competition.
- I will ensure athletes and Unified partners equal opportunity and enable them to build up physical fitness, experience joy and promote friendship through participation of the events.
- I will not discriminate athletes and Unified® partners because of their physical disability. I will protect their privacy and respect athletes' rights and value.
- I will encourage athletes and Unified® partners during their competition, provide safety and be responsible for my conduct that conforms to the Games' spirit.
- I will respect coaches, staff, audiences, administrators and family members.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS VOLUNTEER'S AND SPECTATOR'S CODE OF CONDUCT

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

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, Unified® partners, coaches, officials, other volunteers, friends and spectators in Special Olympics.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
- I will respect the role and authority of all coaches, officials and other Special Olympics personnel and treat them in a professional and supportive manner.
- I will ensure that for each athlete or Unified® partner with whom I interact, the time spent with Special Olympics is a positive experience. I will respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each athlete and Unified® partner.
- 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 and activity (athletes, Unified® partners, coaches, opponents, officials, administrators, parents, spectators, media, etc.).
- I will encourage athletes and Unified® partners to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I will not smoke or use vaping products (e-cigarettes, etc.) in non-smoking areas, including all Special Olympics training and competition venues.
- I will not use or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs (including cannabis products) while participating or attending Special Olympics training sessions or competitions.
- I will refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes, Unified® partners and others, including verbal, physical and emotional abuse.
- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes and Unified® partners in my care.
- 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 participating in or attending Special Olympics events and activities.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS FAMILY MEMBER'S AND CAREGIVER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Special Olympics is committed to the highest ideals of sport and expects all family members to honor Sport and Special Olympics. All Special Olympics family members agree to observe the following code:

- I will let my athlete or Unified partner choose the sports and events in which he/she would like to participate. I will not force my choice upon him/her.
- I will remember that athletes and Unified® partners participate to have fun and that the game/event is for them, not the family members.
- I will respect the role and authority of all coaches, officials and other Special Olympics personnel and treat them in a professional and supportive manner.
- I will learn the rules of the sport/event and the SOMD policies.
- I will abide by the communication processes that are put in place for me, as a family member, to receive the information I need to support my athlete's or Unified® partner's participation.
- I understand that I play a vital role in the health and safety of my athlete's or Unified® partner's participation and I have a responsibility to assist Special Olympics in providing for the health and safety of all athletes and Unified partners, by reporting suspicious behavior, talking to my athlete or Unified® partner about personal safety, dropping off and picking up my athlete or Unified® partner from Special Olympics events at the times designated by the organization (not excessively earlier or later than said established times), and any and all other reasonable measures to assist in the protection of Special Olympics athletes and Unified® partners.
- I (and my guests) will never engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct, such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language and gestures, with any official, coach, athlete, Unified® partner or family member.
- I will praise my athlete or Unified® partner for competing fairly and trying hard, and I will make my athlete or Unified® partner feel like a winner every time. I will never ridicule or yell at my athlete or Unified® partner, or other participants, for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes and Unified® partners ahead of any personal desire that I may have for my athlete or Unified® partner to win.
- I will not smoke or use vaping products (e-cigarettes, etc.) in non-smoking areas, including all Special Olympics training and competition venues.
- I will not use or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs (including cannabis products) while participating or attending Special Olympics training sessions or competitions.
- I will refrain from coaching my athlete or Unified® partner, or other athletes or Unified® partners, during competitions and practices if I am not the assigned coach.