

Special Olympics North Carolina Athlete and Unified Partner Code of Conduct

As a Special Olympics athlete or Unified partner, I agree to the following:

SPORTSMANSHIP AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS

- I will always practice good sportsmanship, including during, before and after practice and competition.
- 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, and will not willfully engage in discriminatory behaviors.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, ability, or any other characteristic.

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 preliminaries just to get into an easier final heat/division.
- I will follow Special Olympics' concussion protocol.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS

- I will not engage in any form of verbal, physical, psychological, emotional, or sexual abuse, unwanted sexual advances, or harassing, bullying, or hazing behavior in person or via any form of communication, including emailing, texting, and social media.
- I know that I can tell my Special Olympics Program leadership immediately if I experience bullying or abusive behavior while participating in Special Olympics activities and/or if I become aware of such behavior occurring between other participants.
- Under North Carolina law, I am obligated to report abuse or suspected abuse. I will consult with my Special Olympics Program leadership for guidance, as needed. I understand all telephone and electronic communications between myself, and any Special Olympics participant must be appropriate and respectful.
- I will not send or share inappropriate images via email, text, or social media.
- I understand that any social media connections I make with other Special Olympics participants 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 drink or possess alcohol, smoke (tobacco products, e-cigarette devices), or possess or consume recreational cannabis or cannabis-based products or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics or participating in Special Olympics activities.
- I will not take drugs for the purpose of improving my performance.
- I will respect and not misuse any equipment or property belonging to Special Olympics or that is provided to Special Olympics for its use.
- I will obey all laws where I am participating.
- I will abide by all Special Olympics General Rules, Special Olympics North Carolina Operating Policies and Official Special Olympics Sports Rule.

- **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 Special Olympics.**

Special Olympics North Carolina Coaches Code of Conduct

As a Special Olympics coach, I agree to the following:

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, coaches, other volunteers, friends, and spectators in Special Olympics, and will not willfully engage in discriminatory behaviors.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity origin, national origin, religion, or ability, or any other characteristic.
- I will be a positive role model for the athletes I coach.

ENSURE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

- I will ensure that for each athlete I coach, the time spent with Special Olympics is a positive experience.
- 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 preliminaries and final heats in accordance with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.
- I will abide by all Special Olympics General Rules and Special Olympics North Carolina Operating Policies.

ACT PROFESSIONALLY AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS

- I will ensure my language, manner, punctuality, preparation, and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity, and professionalism at all times. I will encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I will not drink or possess alcohol, smoke (tobacco products, e-cigarette devices), or possess or consume recreational cannabis or cannabis-based products or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics or participating in Special Olympics activities.
- I will not engage in any form of verbal, physical, psychological, emotional, or sexual abuse, unwanted sexual advances, or harassing, bullying, or hazing behavior in person, via telecommunications, or via any other form of electronic communication, including, but not limited to email, texting and social media. This includes the exchange or transmission of inappropriate language, derogatory comments, or slurs, and/or inappropriate images of a sexual or violent nature. I will also inform my Special Olympics Program leadership immediately should I be subject to such behavior or abuse from another participant and/or if I become aware of such behavior occurring amongst other participants.
- I understand all telephonic and electronic communications between myself, and any other participant must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team-related activities, and I will always make best efforts for a third party to be included on communications so that one-one-one communications are avoided whenever possible.
- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care and will immediately report any incidents or concerns to my Special Olympics Program leadership.
- I will abide by the Special Olympics policy on the prohibition of coaches dating athletes.
- Under North Carolina law, I am obligated to report abuse or suspected abuse. I will consult with my Special Olympics Program leadership for guidance, as needed. I understand all telephone and electronic communications between myself, and any Special Olympics participant must be appropriate and respectful.
- I will abide by the information sharing/communications processes set forth by my local Special Olympics Program.
- I will respect and not misuse any equipment or property belonging to Special Olympics or that is provided to Special Olympics for its use.

- I will not endanger any participant.
- I will provide for the general welfare, health and safety of all Special Olympics participants and fellow volunteers.
- I will obey all laws where I am participating.

QUALITY SERVICE TO THE ATHLETES

- I will seek continual improvement through performance evaluation and ongoing coach education.
- I will keep current with all required trainings and required forms pertaining to my role.
- I will be knowledgeable about and follow the Sports Rules and skills of the sport(s) I coach.
- I will provide athletes/teams with plans to support their increased health, fitness, and sport development.
- I will be aware of any unique medical, training, or competition needs of each athlete I coach.
- I will exercise extreme caution, discretion and care with any documents, material, or devices containing confidential information.

GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ATHLETES

- I will ensure that the equipment and facilities are safe to use.
- I will ensure that the equipment, rules, trainings, and environment are appropriate for the age and ability of the athletes.
- I will review each athlete's medical form and follow the recommended limitations on that athlete's participation noted on that form.
- I will follow Special Olympics' concussion protocol.
- I will allow further participation in training and competition only when safe for the athlete and/or the other participants.
- I will follow the emergency / crisis communications procedures set forth by my Special Olympics Program.
- **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 Special Olympics.**

Special Olympics North Carolina Volunteer Code of Conduct

As a Special Olympics volunteer, I agree to the following:

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, Unified partners, coaches, other volunteers, and spectators in Special Olympics, and will not willfully engage in discriminatory behaviors.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity origin, national origin, religion, or ability, or any other characteristic.
- I will be a positive role model for all participants.

ACT PROFESSIONALLY AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS

- I will ensure my language, manner, punctuality, preparation, and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity, and professionalism at all times. I will encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I will not engage in any form of verbal, physical, psychological, emotional, or sexual abuse, unwanted sexual advances, or harassing, bullying, or hazing behavior in person, via telecommunications, or via any other form of electronic communication, including, but not limited to email, texting, and social media. This includes the exchange or transmission of inappropriate language, derogatory comments, or slurs, and/or inappropriate images of a sexual or violent nature.
- I understand all telephonic and electronic communications between myself, and any other participant must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about Special Olympics activities, and I will always make best efforts for a third party to be included on communications so that one-one-one communications are avoided whenever possible.
- I will inform my Special Olympics Program leadership immediately should I be subject to such behavior or abuse from another participant and/or if I become aware of such behavior occurring amongst others.
- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care and will immediately report any incidents or concerns to my Special Olympics Program leadership.
- Under North Carolina law, I am obligated to report abuse or suspected abuse. I will consult with my Special Olympics Program leadership for guidance, as needed. I understand all telephone and electronic communications between myself, and any Special Olympics participant must be appropriate and respectful.
- I will abide by the Special Olympics policy on the prohibition of volunteers dating athletes.
- I will not drink or possess alcohol, smoke (tobacco products, e-cigarette devices), or possess or consume recreational cannabis or cannabis-based products or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics or participating in Special Olympics activities.
- I will respect and not misuse any equipment or property belonging to Special Olympics or that is provided to Special Olympics for its use.
- I will not endanger any participants.
- I will abide by all Special Olympics General Rules and Special Olympics North Carolina Operating Policies.
- I will obey all laws where I am participating.

GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ATHLETES

- I will provide for the general welfare, health and safety of all Special Olympics participants and fellow volunteers.

- I will follow the established rules and guidelines of Special Olympics and/or any agency involved with Special Olympics.
- I will follow the emergency/crisis communications procedures set forth by my Special Olympics Program.
- I will exercise extreme caution, discretion and care with any documents, materials, or devices, containing confidential information.
- **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 Special Olympics.**

General Code of Conduct for Family Members and Spectators of Special Olympics North Carolina

As a family member and/or spectator of Special Olympics, I agree to the following:

- I will remember that athletes and Unified partners participate to have fun and that the competition is for them.
- I will ensure my language, manner, and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity, and cooperation at all times. I will encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct, such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language and gestures, with any participant, official, coach, or family member.
- I will refrain from coaching athletes or other participants from the stands/sidelines during competitions and practices.
- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants and spectators in Special Olympics, and will not willfully engage in discriminatory behaviors.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity origin, national origin, religion, or ability, or any other characteristic.
- I will respect the rules and policies in place at the activity, event and/or venue at all times.
- I will abide by the information sharing/communications processes set forth by my local Special Olympics Program.
- I understand that I play a vital role and have a responsibility to assist Special Olympics in providing for the health and safety of all athletes, by reporting any unsafe environment or suspicious behavior to my Special Olympics Program leadership.
- I will not engage in any form of verbal, physical, psychological, emotional, or sexual abuse, unwanted sexual advances, or harassing, bullying, or hazing behavior in person, via telecommunications, or via any other form of electronic communication, including, but not limited to texting and social media. This includes the exchange or transmission of inappropriate language, derogatory comments, or slurs, and/or inappropriate images of a sexual or violent nature.
- I understand all telephonic and electronic communications between myself, and any other participant (especially athletes) must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about Special Olympics activities, and I will always make best efforts for a third party to be included on communications so that one-one-one communications are avoided whenever possible.
- I will also inform my Special Olympics Program leadership immediately should I be subject to such behavior or abuse from another participant and/or if I become aware of such behavior occurring amongst others.
- Under North Carolina law, I am obligated to report abuse or suspected abuse. I will consult with my Special Olympics Program leadership for guidance, as needed.
- I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of all participants.
- I will not drink or possess alcohol, smoke (tobacco products, e-cigarette devices), or possess or consume recreational cannabis or cannabis-based products or take illegal drugs while attending or participating in Special Olympics activities.
- I will respect and not misuse any equipment or property belonging to Special Olympics or that is provided to Special Olympics for its use.
- **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 attending and/or participating in Special Olympics activities.**