



Coach 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 are expected to observe the following code:

Respect for Others

- I will respect the rights, dignity, and worth of athletes, 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 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 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 ensure each athlete competes in events that challenge that athlete's potential and are appropriate to that athlete's ability.
- 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, International Federation, and National Federation/Governing Body rules for my sport(s).

Health and Safety of Athletes

- I will ensure that the equipment and facilities are safe to use.
- I will ensure that the equipment, rules, training, and 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 toward 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.



Breaching the Coach Code of Conduct

You, as a Special Olympics coach or volunteer, are a direct reflection of the philosophy of Special Olympics. Your behavior needs to serve as a positive example that exemplifies fair play and sportsmanship. A successful coach/volunteer is one who has succeeded in tempering his/her competitive urges and desire for success to assure his/her athletes receive the most benefit from a positive competitive experience.

You are representing your team, your school, your cheering section, your community, and Special Olympics South Dakota. Please keep this in mind when coaching or working with Special Olympics teams or at events.

Should the behavior and/or attitude of any coach, school/facility, or volunteer be contrary to these principles or the goals and philosophies of Special Olympics South Dakota; one or more of the following steps may be taken by Special Olympics South Dakota to alleviate the situation without further affecting our Special Olympics Athletes:

1. The coach or volunteer may be notified of the undesirable behavior and requested to remedy the situation for continued participation.
2. The coach or volunteer may be requested to withdraw personally, or as an organization from the remainder of the event or tournament.

In the event of extreme or repeated behavior contrary to the best interest of Special Olympics Athletes and Special Olympics; Special Olympics South Dakota may:

1. Prevent the coach, organization, or volunteer from participating in any or all Special Olympics events for a specified period of time.
2. Prevent the coach, organization, or volunteer from participating in Special Olympics South Dakota events indefinitely.

Specific complaints against a coach, school/facility, or volunteer must be filed with the State Office in writing within two weeks of the occurrence. Such a written complaint will be signed by the head of the filing organization and site-specific behaviors. Appropriate action will be taken if warranted.