

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.