

SPECTATORS' CODE OF CONDUCT

“Special Olympics celebrates and strives to promote the spirit of sportsmanship and a love of participation in sports for its own sake”. This is one of the founding principles of Special Olympics. With this in mind, Special Olympics Wisconsin (SOWI) has established the following Spectators' Code of Conduct in order to promote a positive environment for athletes to showcase their talents and compete in.

- Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches, officials, and other spectators.
- Act appropriately. Do not taunt or disturb fans. Enjoy the competition together.
- Cheer good plays of all participants, and refrain from "booing" opponents.
- Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play. Negative cheers or chants that encourage an athlete to fail are not allowed.
- Support the referees, officials and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
- Be responsible for your own safety and remain alert to help prevent accidents.
- Abstain from using tobacco products or alcoholic beverages at the sports venues, athlete housing or Special Olympics entertainment venues. Use of tobacco products or alcoholic beverages is prohibited in the before-mentioned areas. In addition, spectators under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants are subject to removal from a Special Olympics venue.
- Conduct all cheering from the appropriate spectator areas. Spectators are not allowed on team benches, near the scoring table, within enclosed start/finish areas or on the competition surface for an event.
- Respect locker rooms as private areas for athletes, coaches and officials.
- Be supportive after the competition, win or lose. Recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Competition officials (referees, umpires, etc.) and event management personnel reserve the right to warn spectators of undesirable behavior and request immediate correction of the behavior. If spectators display inappropriate and disruptive behavior that interferes with competition, competition may be stopped until the spectator(s) is/are removed from the viewing area and competition venue. Examples of inappropriate and disruptive behavior include (but are not limited to):

- use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner at any time
- use of tobacco products or alcoholic beverages in restricted areas
- taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of violence or physical violence
- negative cheers or chants that encourage an athlete to fail i.e. in basketball, chanting “Air Ball” during a free throw attempt; in volleyball, chanting “Side Out” while a player attempts to serve the ball; in athletics race walking, cheering for an athlete to “run they’re catching you”, etc.
- intentionally creating a loud noise or disturbance at inappropriate times during a competition (according to the rules of the sport) in order to disrupt the performance of an athlete i.e. shaking of a cow bell, blowing a whistle or horn during a basketball, soccer or volleyball game; creating noise at the start of an aquatics race after the official has indicated being quiet for the start of the race; creating a noise during a gymnastics routine to intentionally disrupt the concentration of the performing athlete; use of a bullhorn to cheer on or coach athletes, etc.