



## Special Olympics Athlete Code of Conduct

SOWI prides itself in providing high quality sports training and competitions for people with intellectual disabilities. The primary purpose of this code of conduct is to establish a high standard of athlete behavior, which will ensure the safety and well-being of all athletes involved in training and competition. All athletes (including Unified Sports® Partners) are expected to abide by the Athlete Code of Conduct as established by SOWI. Athletes should be reminded that **participation in Special Olympics is a privilege, not a right, and that the Local Program Manager has the authority to make immediate accommodations until final decisions can be made.**

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

- Uphold the mission, philosophy, principles and policies of Special Olympics, Inc. and Special Olympics Wisconsin
- Behave in a manner consistent with Special Olympics Wisconsin's core values of mutual respect, positive attitude, accountability, teamwork and dedication
- Each athlete further agrees and acknowledges that participation in SOWI is voluntary and SOWI may terminate an athlete's participation if the athlete fails to follow SOWI rules and policies, including the athlete code of conduct.

### SPORTSMANSHIP

- 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 let my coach know when I will not be at practice.
- 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.
- 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, 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 not take drugs for the purpose of improving my performance.

### Special Olympics Wisconsin

6582 Ronald Reagan Ave. | Madison, WI 53704

Phone (608) 222-1324 | Web [SpecialOlympicsWisconsin.org](http://SpecialOlympicsWisconsin.org) | Email [info@specialolympicswisconsin.org](mailto:info@specialolympicswisconsin.org)

Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities.



- I will tell my Special Olympics Program leadership 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.
- 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 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, and Special Olympics rules.
- I will respect the property of hotels, dormitories, athletic facilities and dining facilities.
- 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 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.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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