

ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT
(Coaches keep for their record)



Special Olympics Iowa adheres to the highest ideals of sport in the tradition of the Olympic Movement. The Special Olympics Oath, “Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt,” represents the ideal of competition that every Special Olympics athlete tries to achieve.

I understand that my participation in Special Olympics is a call to excellence for me to train and compete in ways that bring honor to me, to my family, and to Special Olympics. I pledge to uphold the spirit of this Code of Conduct, which is only a general guide for my conduct and does not describe all types of good behavior and bad behavior. If I do not obey this Code of Conduct, my Delegation or a Games Organizing Committee may suspend me from Special Olympics, either temporarily or permanently. If I am suspended from Special Olympics, I can appeal the decision in accordance with the attached Special Olympics Athlete’s Appeal Process.

***Prior to Special Olympics Iowa reinstatement, the athlete is required to sign a new Athlete Code of Conduct.**

I Pledge that:

Sportsmanship

- I will practice good sportsmanship and act in ways that will bring respect to my coach(s), my delegation, Special Olympics Iowa and me
- I will not use bad language, such as swearing or insulting other persons, and will not verbally or physically make inappropriate contact with other athletes, coaches, volunteers, staff, spectators or anyone else affiliated with SOIA

Training & Competition

- I will train regularly and attend scheduled practices and meet training criteria set by my coach(s). I will try my best during, training/practice and competitions
- I will learn and follow the rules of my sport(s)

Personal Responsibility

- I will not make unwanted physical, verbal or sexual advances on others
- I will dress and act, at all times, in a professional manner that will be a credit to Special Olympics Iowa
- I will not drink alcohol, smoke tobacco in non-smoking areas or use illegal drugs at Special Olympics sites
- I will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules

By signing below, I am saying that I have read, or have had read to me, this Athlete Code of Conduct and that I agree to obey this Code of Conduct. If I violate this Code of Conduct and disagree with my disciplinary action, I agree to follow the Special Olympics Athlete’s Appeal Process and I will accept their decision as final.

Athlete

Date

Parent/Guardian or Witness

Relationship to Athlete

DISCIPLINARY STEPS FOR VIOLATING ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

The following progressive disciplinary steps may be taken with the delegation beginning at whichever step is deemed appropriate under the circumstances by a sanctioned representative. The representative must notify the Area Director and State Office of any action that is taken.

Step 1 Verbal warning to the athlete and to the parent/guardian or caseworker with a written copy of the Incident Form to the Area Director and State Office.

Step 2 A written Incident Report must be completed giving warning to the athlete with a copy to the Area Director, State Office, and parent/guardian or caseworker.

Step 3 A personal meeting to review the unacceptable behavior of the athlete and to agree on a plan for behavior improvement shall be conducted by the local coach with the athlete, the athlete's parent(s) / guardian(s) and / or the athlete's case worker. If the athlete is over 18 and his / her own guardian, then the athlete may choose to have another adult present for the meeting. If necessary, the Area Director and / or SOIA staff may attend the meeting.

The meeting shall be documented in writing. Meeting notes will be distributed to the athlete, the athlete's parent(s) / guardian(s) and / or caseworker, Area Director and the State Office.

Step 4 Suspension from practices or competition for a specific time period (such as during the specific Sport season).

The Area Director and State Office must be contacted before an athlete is suspended. The action will be documented in writing and presented to the athlete, parent/guardian or caseworker, Area Director and a copy sent to the State Office.

Any further action must be approved by the Area Director and State Office

Further action could be, but is not limited to:

- Suspension for a longer period
- Permanent expulsion

Athlete Appeal Process

The athlete has the right to appeal any disciplinary action to the State Office. The athlete or the athlete's representative must submit a written notice of appeal to the President/CEO of SOIA. This notice must include a request for a meeting within 30 days of being notified of the disciplinary action.

The appeal will be heard by a designated advisory committee. A decision must be rendered in writing within 21 days following the meeting and may reverse, amend or affirm the disciplinary action. The decision shall be submitted to the athlete and to their local delegation and should include, if applicable, a plan of action for the athlete to correct the unacceptable behavior that led to the disciplinary action.