

**COACH/CHAPERONE/UNIFIED SPORT PARTNER
CODE OF CONDUCT**

(Retain for your own record)

By checking the box on the Class A Volunteer Application, volunteer acknowledges that they have read or have had read to them, the Coach/Chaperone/Unified Sport Partner Code of Conduct and that they agree to obey this Code of Conduct.

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 as a coach/chaperone/Unified Sport Partner is a call to excellence for me to teach in ways that bring honor to the athletes 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 Appeal Process.

I Pledge that:

Sportsmanship

- I will practice and instruct the athletes to have good sportsmanship and act in ways that will bring respect to the athletes, my team, Special Olympics and me
- I will not use abusive language or behavior towards other persons. I will be a good role model and have a positive attitude

Training and Competition

- I will conduct regular training sessions and meet training criteria set by Special Olympics Iowa. I will instruct the athletes to always try their best during training/practice and competitions
- I will instruct the athletes to follow the rules of the sport, and I will encourage and support them, whatever their abilities
- I will not allow the athletes to hold back in divisioning preliminaries in order to get into an easier heat in the finals

Personal Responsibility

- I will not make inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal or sexual advances on others
- I will not drink alcohol or use illegal drugs at Special Olympics events
- I will not smoke in non-smoking areas
- I will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules
- I will always hold the athletes' well-being and safety as my utmost responsibility

If I violate this Code of Conduct and disagree with my disciplinary action, I agree to follow the Special Olympics Appeal Process and I will accept their decision as final.

DISCIPLINARY STEPS FOR VIOLATING COACH/CHAPERONE/UNIFIED SPORT PARTNER 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 the Area Director and staff of Special Olympics Iowa.

Step 1 Verbal warning to the coach/chaperone/Unified Sport Partner 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 coach/chaperone/Unified Sport Partner with a copy to the Area Director and State Office.

Step 3 The State Office and Area Director will conduct a personal meeting with the coach/chaperone/Unified Sport Partner to review unacceptable behavior and to agree on a plan for improvement.

The meeting will be documented in writing and copies distributed to the coach/chaperone/Unified Sport Partner, Area Director and State Office.

Step 4 Suspension from coaching/chaperoning/Unified Sport Partner for a specific time period.

The State Office and Area Director will discuss the circumstances and must approve/disapprove the action. The action will be documented in writing and presented to the coach/chaperone/Unified Sport Partner and a copy will be sent to the local program.

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

Coach/Chaperone/Unified Sport Partner Appeal Process

The coach/chaperone/Unified Sport Partner has the right to appeal any disciplinary action to the State Office. The coach/chaperone/Unified Sport Partner 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 coach/chaperone/Unified Sport Partner and to their delegation and should include, if applicable, a plan of action for the coach/chaperone/Unified Sport Partner to correct the unacceptable behavior that led to the disciplinary action.