

ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

(Coaches keep for their record)



Special Olympics Iowa is committed to the highest standards of sportsmanship, training, rules of competition, and character. I understand I am a representative of Special Olympics, both on and off the field, and my actions should uphold these standards. As an athlete participating in Special Olympics or as a Unified partner, I agree to abide by the Special Olympics Athlete Code of Conduct as stated below:

I Pledge that:

Sportsmanship

- ✓ I will practice good sportsmanship
- ✓ I will act in ways that will bring respect to me, my coaches, my team, and to Special Olympics
- ✓ I will not swear and/or use bad language
- ✓ I will not insult others by my actions, verbal or non-verbal
- ✓ I will not fight with others (athletes, coaches, volunteers, or staff of Special Olympics Iowa)

Training & Competition

- ✓ I will train regularly and follow guidelines set-forth on current training requirements
- ✓ I will learn and follow rules of sports I participate in
- ✓ I will listen to my coaches and officials
- ✓ I will consistently do my best in training, attendance and in competitions
- ✓ I will consistently compete at the best of my ability during training and competitions

Character

- ✓ I will not make any negative statements about athletes, coaches, volunteers or Special Olympics, which includes social media such as Facebook, Twitter, texting, etc.
- ✓ I will not smoke in non-smoking areas
- ✓ I will not use illegal drugs
- ✓ I will not drink alcohol when involved in Special Olympics activities
- ✓ I will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules

By signing below, I understand that if I do not obey this Special Olympics 'Code of Conduct', I will be subject to a range of consequences by my Delegation or Special Olympics Iowa, up to and including not being allowed to participate in any sports or activities.

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 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 State Office.

Step 2 A written Incident Report must be completed giving warning to the athlete with a copy to the 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, 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, and the State Office.

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

The 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, and a copy sent to the State Office.

Any further action must be approved by the 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.