

ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT **(Delegation Managers keep for their record)**



Special Olympics Iowa is committed to providing high-quality physical fitness training and sports 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 are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct and standards of behavior as established by Special Olympics Iowa. While representing or participating in Special Olympics, all Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners will obey the Athlete Code of Conduct. This includes while participating or attending any Special Olympics activity, including transportation to and from the activity.

Sportsmanship

- ✓ I will practice good sportsmanship
- ✓ I will act in ways that will bring respect to me, my coaches, my team, and SOIA
- ✓ I will not use bad language, swear, or say mean things about other persons
- ✓ I will not fight with others (athletes, coaches, volunteers, or staff of Special Olympics Iowa)

Training & Competition

- ✓ I will train regularly and attend as many practices as I can
- ✓ I will let my coach know when I will not be at practice
- ✓ I will learn and follow rules of sports I participate in
- ✓ I will listen to my coaches and officials and ask questions when I do not understand
- ✓ I will always try to do my best in training and in competitions

Responsibility for My Actions

- ✓ 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 make inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal, or sexual advances towards others
- ✓ I will not smoke in non-smoking areas
- ✓ I will not use illegal drugs or drink alcohol while representing Special Olympics Iowa
- ✓ I will follow the rules that are in place for my delegation
- ✓ I will not bring any harmful weapons to any SOIA activity
- ✓ 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 Actions for Not Following the Athlete Code of Conduct

The following progressive disciplinary steps may be taken by a delegation manager or coach. Depending upon the nature of the incident, any actions any actions may be bypassed in the disciplinary process. **An Incident Report Form should be completed and kept on file for any athlete or volunteer with whom there are ongoing behavioral or safety concerns and must be completed immediately if it is suspected further disciplinary action may be needed.** Copies of the Incident Report Forms should be forwarded as soon as completed to the Senior Director of Sports & Programs. The representative must notify the State Office of any action that is taken.

Action 1 Verbal warning to the athlete.

Action 2 Prior to this action being taken, an Incident Report Form must be completed and sent to the Senior Director of Sports & Programs, to its receipt a written warning will be given to the athlete with a copy to the appropriate individuals.

Action 3 Personal meeting with the athlete to review unacceptable behavior and work out a plan for improvement. If the athlete is under age 18, he/she will be accompanied by his/her parent/guardian or caseworker. If the athlete is over 18, a third person selected by the athlete will attend the meeting. The meeting will be documented in writing and copies distributed to the athlete, delegation manager, State Office, coaches file, parent/guardian, or caseworker.

Action 4 Suspension from practices or competition for a specific time period (such as during the specific Sport season). The Senior Director of Sports & Programs 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.