

Special Olympics is committed to the highest ideals of sport and expects all coaches to honor Sport and Special Olympics. All Special Olympics coaches agree to observe the following code:

## **Respect for Others and the Organization**

- I will respect the rights, dignity, and worth of athletes, coaches, other volunteers, spectators, and staff in Special Olympics.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation or ability.
- I will not promote religious or political beliefs or preferences while functioning in the capacity of a volunteer.
- I will be a positive role model for the athletes I coach.
- I will support and promote actions, opinions and philosophies that are consistent with Special Olympics Minnesota's mission and values.
- I will not willfully or maliciously damage the property or reputation of Special Olympics Minnesota.

## **Ensure a Positive Experience**

- I will ensure that for each athlete I coach, the time spent with Special Olympics is a positive experience.
- I will respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each athlete.
- I will ensure that each athlete competes in events that challenge that athlete's potential and are appropriate to that athlete's ability.
- I will be fair, considerate, and honest with athletes and communicate with athletes using simple, clear language.
- I will ensure that accurate scores are provided for entry of an athlete into any event.
- I will instruct each athlete to perform to the best of the athlete's ability at all preliminaries and final heats in accordance with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.

## **Act Professionally and Take Responsibility for My Actions**

- My language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved in the sport (athletes, coaches, opponents, officials, administrators, parents, spectators, media, etc.).
- I will encourage athletes to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I will not smoke in restricted areas, take illegal drugs or misuse prescription drugs while representing Special Olympics at training sessions, competitions or activities, or while in transit to training sessions, competitions, or activities.
- I will have knowledge of and will abide by the policies of Special Olympics Minnesota.
- I have specifically read and will abide by the Special Olympics Minnesota Alcohol Policy.
- Depending on my position within each sport, I will alert my Head Coach, Head of Delegation or Special Olympics Minnesota staff to report actions by athletes or other volunteers contrary to the Codes of Conduct.
- I will refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes and others, including inappropriate or unwanted sexual advances on others, verbal, physical and emotional abuse.
- I will not act in a way that creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment for athletes, coaches, volunteers, staff or spectators.
- I will alert Special Olympics Minnesota and the appropriate authorities to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care.
- I will abide by the Special Olympics Sports Rules for my sport(s).
- I will be respectful when using social media and all other forms of correspondence related to Special Olympics.

**Quality Service to the Athletes**

- I will seek continual improvement through performance evaluation and ongoing coach education.
- I will be knowledgeable about the Sports Rules and skills of the sport(s) I coach.
- I will provide a plan for a regular training program.
- I will follow the Special Olympics Sports Rules for my sport(s).

**Health and Safety of the Athletes**

- I will ensure that the equipment and facilities are safe to use.
- I will ensure that the equipment, rules, training and the environment are appropriate for the age and ability of the athletes.
- I will review each athlete's medical form and be aware of any limitations on that athlete's participation noted on that form.
- I will encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required.
- I will maintain the same interest and support toward sick and injured athletes.
- I will allow further participation in training and competition only when appropriate.

The relationship between Special Olympics and coaches is an "at will" arrangement and it may be terminated at any time without cause by either the coach or Special Olympics. Behaviors that conflict with the volunteer code of conduct may result in Special Olympics Minnesota declining further participation with Special Olympics Minnesota.

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 coaching in Special Olympics.