

Each volunteer is responsible to know the following information before volunteering in any capacity:

- It is expected that all volunteers engage in conduct which conscientiously maintains respect for 1) the dignity and safety of athletes and other staff/volunteer members; 2) personal and agency owned/ designated property/sites; and 3) the laws and standards by which a facility is governed.
- Athletes older than age 18 are considered to be vulnerable adults protected under the Vulnerable Adult Act by the State of Minnesota. Vulnerable adults are people who because of chemical dependency, intellectual disabilities, mental illness or physical disability cannot help themselves if they are hurt or misused by others. For athletes under age 18, refer to page 28.

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

- I will provide for the general welfare, health and safety of all Special Olympics athletes and volunteers.
- I will dress and act in an appropriate manner at all times.
- I will follow the established rules and guidelines of Special Olympics and/or agency involved with Special Olympics.
- I will not promote religious or political beliefs or preferences while volunteering.
- I will report any emergencies to the appropriate authorities after first taking immediate action to ensure the health and safety of the participants.
- I will not smoke in restricted areas, take illegal drugs or misuse prescription drugs while involved with any Special Olympics event, competition or training school.
- I will not engage in any inappropriate contact or relationship with athletes, volunteers or other participants of Special Olympics.

I understand that the relationship between Special Olympics and volunteers is an “at will” arrangement and it may be terminated at any time without cause by either the volunteer 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. An Incident Report Form (page 81) should be completed and kept on file for any athlete, volunteer, staff or spectator with whom there are ongoing behavioral or safety concerns, and the form must be completed immediately if it is suspected further disciplinary action may be needed. Copies of Incident Report Forms should be forwarded as soon as completed to the Sports Program Manager for your area, and Special Olympics Minnesota staff must be involved prior to suspension or release of a volunteer or athlete.