

## **Athlete & Unified Partner Code of Conduct**

As a Special Olympics athlete or Unified partner, I agree to the following:

### **SPORTSMANSHIP AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS**

- I will practice good sportsmanship.
- I will act in ways that bring respect to me, my coaches, my team and Special Olympics.
- I will not use inappropriate or offensive language, including swearing or insulting other individuals, in any form of communication.
- I will not fight with other athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, staff, family members or spectators.
- I will respect the rights and dignity of all athletes, Unified partners, coaches, volunteers, staff, family members, and spectators in Special Olympics.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, ability, or any other characteristic.

### **TRAINING AND COMPETITION**

- I will train regularly.
- I will learn and follow the rules of my sport.
- I will listen to my coaches and the officials and ask questions when I do not understand.
- I will always try my best during training, divisioning and competitions.
- I will not "hold back" in preliminaries just to get into an easier final heat/division.

### **RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS**

- I will not engage in any form of verbal, physical, psychological, emotional or sexual abuse, unwanted sexual advances, or harassing, bullying or hazing behavior in person or via any form of communication, including texting and social media.
- I will tell my Special Olympics Program leadership immediately if I experience bullying or abusive behavior while participating in Special Olympics activities and/or if I become aware of such behavior occurring between other participants.
- I will ensure I am aware of any applicable law(s) which classifies me as a mandatory reporter. I am aware that I am obligated to report abuse or suspected abuse, regardless of whether laws omit me as a mandatory reporter. I will consult with my Special Olympics Program leadership for guidance, as needed.

- I understand all telephone and electronic communications between me and any Special Olympics participant must be appropriate and respectful.
- I will not send or share inappropriate images via email, text, or social media.
- I understand that any social media connections I make with other Special Olympics participants on my personal social media accounts are my choice and I am completely responsible for all such communications and who I choose to friend/follow on social media.
- I will not drink or possess alcohol, smoke (tobacco products, e-cigarette devices), or possess or consume recreational cannabis or cannabis-based products or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics or participating in Special Olympics activities.
- I will not take drugs for the purpose of improving my performance.
- I will obey all laws where I am participating, and Special Olympics rules.

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 participating in Special Olympics.

## **Coaches Code of Conduct**

As a Special Olympics coach, I agree to the following:

### **RESPECT FOR OTHERS**

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, coaches, other volunteers, friends and spectators in Special Olympics.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity origin, national origin, religion, or ability, or any other characteristic.
- I will be a positive role model for the athletes I coach.

### **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 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**

- I will ensure my language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity and professionalism at all times. I will encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I will not drink or possess alcohol, smoke (tobacco products, e-cigarette devices), or possess or consume recreational cannabis or cannabis-based products, or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics or participating in Special Olympics activities. at training sessions, competition or during Games.
- I will not engage in any form of verbal, physical, psychological, emotional or sexual abuse, unwanted sexual advances, or harassing, bullying or hazing behavior in person, via telecommunications, or via any other form of electronic communication, including, but not limited to texting and social media. This

includes the exchange or transmission of inappropriate language, derogatory comments or slurs, and/or inappropriate images of a sexual or violent nature. I will also inform my Special Olympics Program leadership immediately should I be subject to such behavior or abuse from another participant and/or if I become aware of such behavior occurring amongst other participants.

- I understand all telephonic and electronic communications between myself and any other participant must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team-related activities, and I will always make best efforts for a third party to be included on communications so that one-on-one communications are avoided whenever possible.
- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care and will immediately report any incidents or concerns to my Special Olympics Program leadership.
- I will ensure I am aware of any applicable law(s) which classifies me as a mandatory reporter. I am aware that I am obligated to report abuse or suspected abuse, regardless of whether laws omit me as a mandatory reporter. I will consult with my Special Olympics Program leadership for guidance, as needed.
- I will abide by the Special Olympics policy on the prohibition of coaches dating athletes.
- I will obey all laws where I am participating, and Special Olympics rules.

### **QUALITY SERVICE TO THE ATHLETES**

- I will seek continual improvement through performance evaluation and ongoing coach education.
- I will keep current with all required trainings, and required forms pertaining to my role.
- I will be knowledgeable about and follow the Sports Rules and skills of the sport(s) I coach.
- I will provide athletes/teams with plans to support their increased health, fitness and sport development.
- I will keep copies of the medical, training and competition records for each athlete I coach.
- I will exercise extreme caution, discretion and care with any documents, material or devices, containing confidential information.

### **GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ATHLETES**

- I will ensure that the equipment and facilities are safe to use.
- I will ensure that the equipment, rules, training and 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 follow Special Olympics' concussion protocol.
- I will allow further participation in training and competition only when appropriate.
- I will follow the emergency / crisis communications procedures set forth by my Special Olympics Program.

## General Code of Conduct for Family Members and Spectators of Special Olympics

As a family member and/or spectator of Special Olympics, I agree to the following:

- I will remember that athletes and Unified partners participate to have fun and that the competition is for them.
- I will ensure my language, manner, and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity and cooperation at all times. I will encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct, such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language and gestures, with any participant, official, coach, or family member.
- I will refrain from coaching athletes or other participants from the stands/sidelines during competitions and practices.
- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants and spectators in Special Olympics.  
I will treat everyone equally regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity origin, national origin, religion, or ability, or any other characteristic.
- I will respect the rules and policies in place at the activity, event and/or venue at all times.
- I will respect the information sharing process set forth by my local Special Olympics program.
- I understand that I play a vital role and have a responsibility to assist Special Olympics in providing for the health and safety of all athletes, by reporting any unsafe environment or suspicious behavior to my Special Olympics Program leadership.
- I will not engage in any form of verbal, physical, psychological, emotional or sexual abuse, unwanted sexual advances, or harassing, bullying or hazing behavior in person, via telecommunications, or via any other form of electronic communication, including, but not limited to texting and social media. This includes the exchange or transmission of inappropriate language, derogatory comments or slurs, and/or inappropriate images of a sexual or violent nature.
- I understand all telephonic and electronic communications between myself and any other participant (especially athletes) must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about Special Olympics activities, and I will always make best efforts for a third party to be included on communications so that one-one-one communications are avoided whenever possible.

- I will also inform my Special Olympics Program leadership immediately should I be subject to such behavior or abuse from another participant and/or if I become aware of such behavior occurring amongst others.
- I will ensure I am aware of any applicable law(s) which classifies me as a mandatory reporter. I am aware that I am obligated to report abuse or suspected abuse, regardless of whether laws omit me as a mandatory reporter. I will consult with my Special Olympics Program leadership for guidance, as needed.
- I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of all participants.
- I will not drink or possess alcohol, smoke (tobacco products, e-cigarette devices), or possess or consume recreational cannabis or cannabis-based products, or take illegal drugs while attending or participating in Special Olympics activities.

## **Volunteer Code of Conduct**

As a Special Olympics volunteer, I agree to the following:

### **RESPECT FOR OTHERS**

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, Unified partners, coaches, other volunteers, and spectators in Special Olympics.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity origin, national origin, religion, or ability, or any other characteristic.
- I will be a positive role model for all participants.

### **ACT PROFESSIONALLY AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS**

- I will ensure my language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity and professionalism at all times. I will encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I will not engage in any form of verbal, physical, psychological, emotional or sexual abuse, unwanted sexual advances, or harassing, bullying or hazing behavior in person, via telecommunications, or via any other form of electronic communication, including, but not limited to texting and social media. This includes the exchange or transmission of inappropriate language, derogatory comments or slurs, and/or inappropriate images of a sexual or violent nature.
- I understand all telephonic and electronic communications between myself and any other participant must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about Special Olympics activities, and I will always make best efforts for a third party to be included on communications so that one-on-one communications are avoided whenever possible.
- I will inform my Special Olympics Program leadership immediately should I be subject to such behavior or abuse from another participant and/or if I become aware of such behavior occurring amongst others.
- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care and will immediately report any incidents or concerns to my Special Olympics Program leadership.
- I will ensure I am aware of any applicable law(s) which classifies me as a mandatory reporter. I am aware that I am obligated to report abuse or suspected abuse, regardless of whether laws omit me as a mandatory reporter. I will consult with my Special Olympics Program leadership for guidance, as needed.
- I will abide by the Special Olympics policy on the prohibition of volunteers dating athletes.



- I will not drink or possess alcohol, smoke (tobacco products, e-cigarette devices), or possess or consume recreational cannabis or cannabis-based products, or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics or participating in Special Olympics activities.
- I will obey all laws where I am participating, and Special Olympics rules.

### **GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ATHLETES**

- I will provide for the general welfare, health and safety of all Special Olympics participants and fellow volunteers.
- I will follow the established rules and guidelines of Special Olympics and/or any agency involved with Special Olympics.
- I will follow the emergency / crisis communications procedures set forth by my Special Olympics Program.
- I will exercise extreme caution, discretion and care with any documents, material or devices, containing confidential information.