

# ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

Special Olympics Wisconsin (SOWI) prides itself in sponsoring high quality sports training and competitions for people with cognitive 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 (including Unified Sports® Partners) are expected to abide by the Athlete Code of Conduct as established by SOWI. Athletes should be reminded that **participation in Special Olympics is a privilege, not a right, and that the Agency manager has the authority to make immediate accommodations until final decisions can be made.**

By agreeing to abide by the Special Olympics Wisconsin Code of Conduct, each athlete agrees to adhere to the following athlete behavior:

- Uphold the mission, philosophy, principles and policies of Special Olympics, Inc. and Special Olympics Wisconsin
- Behave in a manner consistent with Special Olympics Wisconsin's core values of mutual respect, positive attitude, accountability, teamwork and dedication

## SPORTSMANSHIP

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 bad language.

I will not swear or insult other persons.

I will not fight with other athletes, coaches, volunteers or staff.

## 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 preliminary competition just to get into an easier finals competition division.

## RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS

I will not make inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal or sexual advances on others.

I will not smoke in non-smoking areas.

I will not drink alcohol or use illegal drugs at Special Olympics events.

I will not take drugs for the purpose of improving my performance.

I will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules, the International Federation and the National Federation/Governing Body rules for my sport(s).

# ATHLETE STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

The following athlete behavior is unacceptable while participating in Special Olympics training or competition, including, but not limited to, practice, in transit, and at the competition venue:

- Profanity or verbal abuse
- Tobacco use in restricted areas
- Use of alcohol
- Physical or verbal sexual overtures
- Physical abuse\*
- Use of illegal drugs or any controlled substance\*
- Felony or misdemeanors (or any other illegal or socially unacceptable behavior) which seriously disrupts or impedes the participation of athletes or others\*
- Frequent unexcused absences
- Exhibition of poor sportsmanship
- Violent or disruptive behavior
- Any unwelcome physical contact
- Possession of harmful weapons\*

*\*Criminal offenses regardless of where it occurs may result in immediate suspension from any and all Special Olympics activities.*

## Guidelines for limiting or denying an athlete's involvement in SOWI

SOWI may limit or deny an athlete's participation in SOWI based on the following, as determined by SOWI in its sole discretion.

- a. Admission or adjudication of involvement in abuse, neglect, sexual assault, or conduct involving violence or threat of violence (for example, assault and battery or armed robbery)
- b. Record of being charged with abuse, neglect, conduct involving violence or threat of violence (for example, assault and battery or armed robbery), or sexual assault with corroborating information
- c. Extreme or repeated violations of the SOWI Code of Conduct
- d. Current use of illegal drugs
- e. If the safety of other athletes is at risk

Not all situations or circumstances can be addressed in these guidelines. SOWI will address each situation on a case-by-case basis:

SOWI recommends all Special Olympics athletes and Unified Sports® Partners review, understand and sign the Athlete Code of Conduct before sports training begins. If an athlete or Unified Sports® Partner participates in multiple sports seasons, he/she need only submit one form per SOWI sports year (i.e., October - September). The Agency manager should forward all signed forms to the area office before training begins and retain a copy in the agency files throughout the SOWI sports year.

**Athlete/Unified Sports® Partner's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Print Athlete's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Agency #: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature (If athlete is a minor or not their own guardian.)** \_\_\_\_\_

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