

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:

- 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 sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
- I will be a positive role model for the athletes I coach.
- I will ensure that for each athlete I coach, the time spent with Special Olympics is positive.
- 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/heats and finals in accordance with Special Olympics Sports Rules.
- 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 drink alcohol, smoke or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics at training sessions or during competition.
- I will refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes and others, including verbal, physical and emotional abuse. Special Olympics Illinois has a no tolerance policy in regard to physical altercations involving coaches, athletes, unified partners, volunteers, spectators, family members, etc.
- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care.
- I will not date or have a sexual relationship with any Special Olympics athlete. Please refer to the Volunteer/Athlete Dating Policy for complete details regarding this policy.
- 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 planned training program.
- I will keep copies of the medical, training, and competition records for each athlete I coach.
- I will follow the Special Olympics and the National Governing Body rules for my sport(s).
- 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 noted on that athlete's participation form.
- I will encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required.
- I will maintain the same interest and support towards sick and injured athletes.
- I will allow further participation in training and competition only when appropriate.

Should the behaviors, attitudes or actions of any coach or other faction of the member organization be contrary to these principles or to the goals and philosophies of Special Olympics, then one or more of the following steps may be taken by the Games Committee, Sports Officials, and/or by Special Olympics Illinois in an effort to alleviate the situation without further affecting Special Olympics athletes:

- The coach will be notified of the undesirable behavior or action and requested to remedy the situation for continued participation.
- The coach will be requested to withdraw personally, or as an organization from the remainder of the event or tournament.

- If a team is found using an ineligible or illegal player then the team will forfeit all games in which the athlete played and will also forfeit any awards that were received and the team will not advance to the next level of competition.

In the event of extreme or repeated behavior or actions Special Olympics Illinois may:

- Prevent the coach or organization from participating in any or all Special Olympics events for a specified period of time.
- Prevent the coach or organization from participating in Special Olympics Illinois indefinitely.
- If a coach is suspended or their coaching status has been revoked then all sports certifications will be revoked and the individual must re-certify those sports records. The coach must submit a letter to the Vice President of Sports & Competition explaining why they should be reinstated as a coach. If approval is granted for reinstatement then the individual will be required to submit a new Class A volunteer form and redo the Protective Behaviors training. Sports re-certification cannot occur until after they have been reinstated as a coach.

Special Olympics Illinois will document coach conduct issues at all levels and communicate infractions to appropriate staff. Progressive discipline measures will be used unless infractions are extreme in nature.