

Spectator Code of Conduct

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As fans (family, friends and supporters) of Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners, it is expected that everyone will play a positive role at Special Olympics Illinois events by following this code of conduct:

1. Refrain from using abusive or offensive language towards anyone: officials, coaches, opponents and fellow spectators.
2. Remember that athletes and Unified partners are amateur athletes and the coaches and officials are volunteers.
3. Understanding the rules will lead to a more positive experience at the event. All Special Olympics Illinois sports follow the designated National Governing Body (NGB) rules and any exceptions or modifications to those rules are included in the Special Olympics Illinois Rules Interpretations for the sport. A list of the designated NGB rules and the Rules Interpretations can be found at <http://www.soill.org> in the coach section.
4. Keep in mind the Special Olympics oath and remember that winning is not the emphasis of Special Olympics competition.
5. Allow coaches to do the coaching. Please refrain from shouting instructions to athletes or Unified partners.
6. Stay out of the competition areas. Only registered coaches, athletes, Unified partners and officials should be in the playing area.
7. Display good sportsmanship. Derogatory comments directed to players, coaches and officials will not be tolerated.
8. Follow instructions or directives given by officials, volunteers or Special Olympics Illinois staff.
9. Refrain from any form of personal abuse (verbal, physical, emotional, etc.) towards coaches, athletes, Unified partners, volunteers, spectators, family members, etc. Such behavior will not be tolerated by Special Olympics.

Any spectator who fails to follow directives given by volunteers, officials or Special Olympics Illinois staff or does not adhere to the code of conduct items above will be reprimanded. A reprimand could include any of the following:

1. Will be escorted from the venue;
2. Will be banned from attending future events for a given period of time;
3. Will be permanently banned from attending any Special Olympics Illinois event.