

Statement of Sportsmanship

Special Olympics New Hampshire promotes the demonstration of good sportsmanship by everyone involved in the Program. Athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and spectators are expected to conduct themselves with the highest level of respect for others, the integrity of sport and demonstrative of positive support for the event.

Codes of Conduct

Athlete Code of Conduct

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

- Uphold the philosophy, principles and policies of Special Olympics, Inc. and Special Olympics New Hampshire.
- Behave in a manner consistent with Special Olympics core values of mutual respect, integrity, 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 others.
- 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 try my best during training, divisioning, and competition.
- I will not “hold back” in a preliminary competition just to get in 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 at Special Olympics competitions.
- I will not use illegal drugs.
- 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 for my sport(s).

Coach Code of Conduct

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 sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
- 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 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 preliminary competition and finals competition in accordance with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.

Act Professionally and Take Responsibility for My Actions

- 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.
- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care.

Quality Service to the Athletes

- 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, the International Federation and the National Federation/Governing Body rules for my sport(s).

Health & Safety of the Athletes

- 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 on that athlete's participation noted on that 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.
- 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 coaching in Special Olympics.

Volunteer Code of Conduct

- I will provide for the general welfare, health and safety of all SONH athletes and volunteers.
- I will dress and act in an appropriate manner at all times.
- I will follow the established rules and guidelines of SONH, Special Olympics, Inc. and/or any agency involved with Special Olympics New Hampshire.
- 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 while in the proximity of athletes involved with any SONH event, competition or training school, abstain from the consumption or use of all alcohol, tobacco products and illegal substances.
- I will not engage in any inappropriate contact or relationship with athletes, volunteers or other participants of SONH.

Family Code of Conduct

- I will let my athlete choose the sports in which he/she would like to participate. I will not force my choice upon him/her.
- I will remember that athletes participate to have fun and that the game is for them, not the family members.
- I (and my guests) will be positive role models for my athlete and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and by demonstrating positive support for all athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators at every game, practice or competition.
- I will teach my athlete that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my athlete will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
- I will refrain from coaching my athlete, or other athletes, during competitions and practices if I am not the assigned coach.

Spectator Code of Conduct

- I will lead by positive example. Display good sportsmanship.

- I will let the coaches coach the athletes and refrain from shouting instructions.
- I will provide general cheers or positive comments after the play.