



# Athlete Behavior Policy

## *Participation of Athletes with Criminal Records, a History of Violent Behavior or Abusive Behavior*

A person's participation in Special Olympics as an athlete is an opportunity and privilege; it is not an entitlement. Special Olympics New Hampshire has the right and responsibility to protect the well-being and safety of all participants: athletes, coaches, volunteers, staff and spectators. Therefore, Special Olympics New Hampshire reserves the right to limit or exclude an individual's participation in the program.

Special Olympics New Hampshire will evaluate each incident based on:

- Type of offense/incident
- Timing of offense/incident
- Number of offenses
- Capacity of athlete
- Medication

Decisions may include

- Participation on a probationary period
- Participation with a mandatory one on one volunteer
- Require the athlete to attend counseling and/or anger management courses
- Prohibit athlete from participation in overnight activities
- Restrict the sport an athlete participates in
- Suspend the athlete
- Expel the athlete

Special Olympics New Hampshire is not obligated by law to permit a potential athlete with a criminal record or a history of violent or abusive behavior to participate.

Special Olympics New Hampshire will act prudently within its rights to expel or deny participation into our program.

The disciplinary action taken by Special Olympics New Hampshire shall be determined by the COO.