



Defiance County Special Olympics Code of Conduct

Special Olympics Ohio Code of Conduct

Special Olympics Local Coordinators, coaches, athletes, unified sports partners, volunteers, families, and fans are models whose behavior serves as positive examples for the goals and mission of Special Olympics. In addition, Special Olympics coordinators and coaches must exhibit behaviors that make them a positive role model for their athletes. Their behavior indicates a concern that the fairest and most positive competitive experience is equally available to every Special Olympics athlete in the competition.

To promote Good Sportsmanship, Special Olympics Ohio has adopted the Special Olympics International Code of Conduct for athletes, coaches, and volunteers. In addition, Ohio has adopted the Spectator Guidelines to promote Good Sportsmanship amongst families and other fans that come to Special Olympics Ohio events at all levels. The CODE is as follows:

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 and competitions.
- I will not "hold back" in preliminaries just to get into an easier final heat.

Responsibility for My Actions

- I will not make inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal or sexual advances on others.
- I will not drink alcohol, smoke or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics at training sessions, competition or during Games.
- I will not take drugs for the purpose of improving my performance.
- I will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules.

Attendance

Attendance at all practices and games is mandatory. Things do come up; so, if you are unable to attend Special Olympics due to health, work, or family reasons, you must notify the Special Olympics Coordinator immediately. Unexcused or excessive absences will adversely affect an athlete's participation in games as well as Area, Sectional, and State Games. If absences persist, athletes may be taken off the team roster.

Spectator Guidelines

As fans of Special Olympics Athletes, it is expected you will play a positive role at SOOH events by following these guidelines:

- 1) Please refrain from using abusive or offensive language towards anyone; officials, coaches, opponents, and fellow spectators.
- 2) Keep your emotions under control-Remember that the athletes are amateur athletes and the coaches and officials are all volunteers.
- 3) It may help if you understand the rules of the sport/event. If you need further information or clarification, ask your home program for a copy of the rules.
- 4) De-emphasize winning and losing!
- 5) Let the coaches' coach the players-Please refrain from shouting instructions.
- 6) Spectators and fans are prohibited within the competition areas. Only registered/approved coaches and athletes should be on the official playing field/ area.
- 7) ALL CHEERS should stress the spirit of good sportsmanship. Derogatory comments directed to players, coaches, does not reflect the spirit or mission of Special Olympics.

Any spectator who fails to follow the above guidelines will be reprimanded. A reprimand could be one of the following:

- a) You could be escorted from the venue and asked not to return.
- b) You could be banned from attending future events for the remainder of the season.
- c) You could be banned from attending any SOOH event indefinitely.

I understand that if I do not obey this Code of Conduct the Defiance County Special Olympics Coordinator may not allow me to participate. Failure to follow the rule may result in verbal warnings, written warnings, suspensions and even termination from the program.

Athlete Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date