

Special Olympics Athlete Code of Conduct

SOWI prides itself in providing high quality sports training and competitions for people with intellectual disabilities. The primary purpose of this code of conduct is to establish a high standard of athlete behavior, which will ensure the safety and well-being of all athletes involved in training and competition. All athletes (including Unified Sports® Partners) are expected to abide by the Athlete Code of Conduct as established by SOWI. Athletes should be reminded that **participation in Special Olympics is a privilege, not a right, and that the Agency manager has the authority to make immediate accommodations until final decisions can be made.**

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

- Uphold the mission, philosophy, principles and policies of Special Olympics, Inc. and Special Olympics Wisconsin
- Behave in a manner consistent with Special Olympics Wisconsin's core values of mutual respect, positive attitude, accountability, teamwork and dedication
- Each athlete further agrees and acknowledges that participation in SOWI is voluntary and SOWI may terminate an athlete's participation if the athlete fails to follow SOWI rules and policies, including the athlete code of conduct.

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 let my coach know when I will not be at practice.
- 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, divisioning and competitions.
- I will not "hold back" in preliminary competition just to get into an easier finals competition division.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS

- I will not make inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal or sexual advances on others in person or through social media.
- I will not smoke or vape in non-smoking areas.
- I will not drink alcohol or use illegal drugs at Special Olympics events.
- I will not take drugs for the purpose of improving my performance.
- I will respect the property of hotels, dormitories, athletic facilities and dining facilities.
- I will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules, the International Federation and the National Federation/Governing Body rules for my sport(s).

ATHLETE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The following athlete behavior is unacceptable while participating in Special Olympics training or competition, including, but not limited to, practice, in transit, and at the competition venue:

- Tobacco or Vaping use in restricted areas
- Use of alcohol
- Exhibition of poor sportsmanship
- Profanity or verbal abuse or taunting in any manner
- Violent or disruptive behavior
- Physical or verbal sexual overtures
- Any unwelcome physical contact
- Frequent unexcused absences
- Physical abuse*/Assault
- Possession of harmful weapons*
- Use of illegal drugs or any controlled Substance*
- Public forum posts that degrade the organization (social media)
- Felony or misdemeanors (or any other illegal or socially unacceptable behavior) which seriously disrupts or impedes the participation of athletes or others*
- The non-payment for any purchased items from the Agency of participation. Items to include but not limited to: Articles of clothing, banquets, travel, etc.

I understand that if I do not obey this Code of Conduct, I will be subject to a range of consequences by my Agency, Regional and/or State Special Olympics Wisconsin Staff, up to and including not being allowed to participate.

Athlete/Unified Sports Partner's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Print Athlete's Name _____

Agency # _____ Agency Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (If athlete is a minor or not their own guardian.) _____
