



Special Olympics Minnesota Participant Code of Conduct

Special Olympics Minnesota upholds the ideals of good sportsmanship from all people who participate in Special Olympics Minnesota activities in any role. This may include but is not limited to athletes, coaches, Unified Partners, volunteers, students, and spectators. These ideals require you to agree to the following minimum standards while participating in Special Olympics Minnesota activities:

I will treat other people as they wish to be treated:

- I will be fair, considerate, and honest.
- I will use clear language everyone can understand.
- I will endeavor to consider all individual's needs in my approach for instruction, coaching, or assistance.
- I will focus on effort and performance rather than winning or losing.

I will act ethically and with integrity:

- I will give my best effort.
- I will ensure participants compete in events which challenge their potential and are appropriate for their ability.
- I will show up for the practices and events I say I will.
- I will not cheat or help others to cheat.
- I will follow the rules, respect the decisions of officials, and encourage others to do the same.
- I will make sure equipment and facilities are safe for use.
- I will not yell at or tease anyone.
- I will not make inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal, or sexual advances toward others.
- I will not drink alcohol, smoke in restricted areas, or take illegal drugs.
- I will not take drugs for the purpose of improving athletic performance.
- I will not bring any harmful weapons to any Special Olympics activity.
- I will not act in a way which creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

I will behave respectfully:

- I will not settle disagreements with hostility or violence.
- I will listen to coaches and officials and ask questions if I don't understand.
- I will protect and care for the property of Special Olympics Minnesota.
- I will not use swear words or other offensive language.



I will behave respectfully (continued):

- I will not say mean things about others.
- I will not approach or address officials to discuss or disagree with decisions unless I am a head coach or event manager.
- I will not act in any way which damages the reputation of Special Olympics.
- I will act with respect specifically when using social media or other forms of correspondence.

I will promote fellowship:

- I will show respect for my opponents. Without them, there would be no game.
- I will show respect for volunteer coaches, officials, teachers, and administrators. Without them, there would be no participation.
- I will participate for my enjoyment and the enjoyment of others.
- I will encourage participation, but will not force it.
- I will appreciate good performance and skillful plays by all participants.
- I will congratulate all participants on their performance, regardless of the outcome.

Head coaches, heads of delegations, or Special Olympics Minnesota staff should be alerted to any behavior which does not follow this code of conduct at Special Olympics activities.

Special Olympics Minnesota encourages reporting any kind of abuse to the appropriate authorities.

It is Special Olympics Minnesota's policy to not discriminate against any person regardless of ability, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation (including transgender status, gender identity or expression), pregnancy (including childbirth, lactation, or related conditions), marital status, disability, public assistance, age, and familial status, genetic information, local commissions activity, veteran status, or uniformed servicemember status.

Actions that are not in alignment with this code of conduct will subject the participant to Special Olympics Minnesota's Suspension and Dismissal Procedures, including dismissal from participation.