



COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

This code of conduct is designed to assist each SOSC Coach in abiding by the philosophy of Special Olympics and the mission statement set forth in Section A of the Official Special Olympics Summer and Winter Sports Rules. In return, members will be treated with respect and openness, have access to self-improvement training opportunities, and be matched with a level of coaching appropriate to their level of competence.

This code of conduct is intended to provide standards of professional conduct that can be applied by SOSC to the individuals selected to serve as coaches and members for a SOSC delegation. This code is intended to provide both the general principles and the decision rules to cover most situations encountered. It has as its primary goal the welfare and protection of the individuals with whom we work. This Code also provides a common set of values upon which those serving as coaches can build their coaching philosophy. It is the individual responsibility of each coach to aspire to the highest possible standards of conduct. SOSC respects and protects human and civil rights, and does not knowingly participate in or condone unfair discriminatory practices.

All SOSC coaches are required to sign the SOSC Code of Conduct when serving as a coach for SOSC. This document will be reviewed as each coach receives his/her certification.

As a SOSC coach, I will abide by:

General Principles

PRINCIPLE A: COMPETENCE

I will strive to maintain high standards of excellence in my work. I will recognize the boundaries of my particular competencies and the limitations of my expertise. I will provide only those services and use only those techniques for which I am qualified by education, training, or experience. In those areas in which my personal knowledge does not exist, I will exercise careful judgment and take appropriate precautions to protect the welfare of those with whom I work, the athlete.

PRINCIPLE B: INTEGRITY

I will seek to promote integrity in the practice of coaching. I will be honest, fair, and respectful of others. I will strive to be aware of my own belief systems, values, needs, and limitations and the effect of these with whom I work. To the extent feasible, I will attempt to clarify for relevant parties the roles they are performing and to function appropriately in accordance with those roles. I will avoid improper and potentially harmful dual relationships.

PRINCIPLE C: PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

I will uphold the standards of conduct, clarify the roles and obligations, accept appropriate responsibility for behavior, and adapt my methods to the needs of different athletes. I will consult with, refer to, or cooperate with others to the extent needed to serve the best interest of their athletes, or other recipients of their services. My moral standards and conduct are personal matters to the same degree as is true of any other person, except when my conduct may compromise my coaching responsibilities.

PRINCIPLE D: RESPECT FOR PARTICIPANTS AND DIGNITY

I will respect the fundamental rights, dignity, and worth of all participants. I will be aware of cultural, individual, and role differences, including those due to age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, and socioeconomic status.

PRINCIPLE E: CONCERN FOR OTHERS' WELFARE

I will seek to contribute to the welfare of those with whom I interact. In my actions, I will consider the welfare and rights of their athletes and other participants. When conflicts occur among my obligations or concerns, I will attempt to resolve these conflicts and to perform my role in a responsible fashion that avoids or minimizes harm.

PRINCIPLE F: RESPONSIBLE COACHING

I am aware of their responsibilities to the community and the society in which I work and live.

In addition to the above General Principles, I will:

Respect for Others

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of staff, 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, 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 athletes’ 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 athletes’ ability at all preliminaries/heats and finals 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 and the National Governing Body rules for my sport(s).

Health and 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.

Process Relating to Violation of Code

In the event that a violation of the Code of Conduct occurs during an authorized SOSC activity, SOSC may take action in order to protect its interests and those of staff, athletes, coaches and others at the location.

Any action taken by SOSC, which affects the opportunity of an individual to participate, shall be entitled to due process as assured by Special Olympics North America.

If the violation of the Code of Conduct occurs while a member of any SOSC delegation/team, I acknowledge that SOSC may institute its own proceeding regarding the violation. This action by SOSC shall not restrict the ability or obligation of Special Olympics North America to determine its own separate and independent action.

In the event that an individual is found to have violated the Code of Conduct, such action is separate and apart from any other legal consequences which may occur as a result of the act.

By signing below, I am saying that I have read the Code of Conduct, that I agree to abide by it, and that if I violate the Code of Conduct, I may be prohibited from working with Special Olympics athletes.

I, _____, agree to abide by this Code of Conduct Agreement.

Signature

Date