



Special Olympics Michigan

ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

Special Olympics Michigan adheres to the highest ideals of sport in the tradition of the Olympic movement. The Special Olympics Oath, "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt," represents the ideal of competition that every Special Olympics athlete tries to achieve.

I understand that my participation in Special Olympics is a call to excellence for me to train and compete in ways that bring honor to me, to my family, and to Special Olympics. I pledge to uphold the spirit of this Code of Conduct, which is only a general guide for my conduct and does not describe all types of good behavior and bad behavior. If I do not obey this Code of Conduct, my Area Director, Acting Area Director, or the Games Committee Director may suspend me from Special Olympics, either temporarily or permanently. If I am suspended from Special Olympics, I can appeal the decision in accordance with the attached Special Olympics Athlete's Appeal Process.

I pledge that:

Sportsmanship

- I will practice good sportsmanship and act in ways that will bring respect to my coaches, my team, Special Olympics and me.
- I will not use bad language, such as swearing or insulting other persons, and will not fight with other athletes, coaches, and volunteers.
- I will show respect towards my fellow athletes, coaches, and volunteers at all times. I will not make fun of other people or criticize them, but will give them praise and positive recognition.

Training & Competition

- I will learn and follow the rules of my sport, and I will ask questions when I do not understand.
- I will train regularly and attend scheduled practices and games. I will notify my coach if I am not able to make practices or games.
- I will work to do my best. and will not hold back in divisioning preliminaries in order to get into an easier heat.

Personal Responsibility

- I will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules.
- I will not make unwanted physical, verbal, or sexual advances on others.
- I will not drink alcohol, use tobacco products in nonsmoking areas, or use illegal drugs at Special Olympics venue sites.
- I will take care of Special Olympics uniforms and equipment.

By signing below, I am saying that I have read, or have had read to me, this Athlete Code of Conduct and that I agree to obey this Code of Conduct. I understand that if I violate this Code of Conduct, I may be disciplined and/or suspended. If I am suspended from Special Olympics, I can appeal the decision in accordance with the Special Olympics Athlete's Appeal Process.

Athlete

Date

Parent / Guardian or Witness

Relationship to Athlete



Special Olympics Michigan

DISCIPLINARY STEPS FOR VIOLATING ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

The following steps may be taken if the athlete does not follow the Code of Conduct, beginning at whichever step is deemed appropriate. Each incident will be reviewed on an individual basis. The Area Director will be notified of any action that is taken.

Step 1 Verbal warning to the athlete. The parent/guardian may be notified.

Step 2 A written Incident Report documenting the violation of the Code of Conduct will be given to the athlete with a copy to the Area Director and the parent/guardian.

Step 3 The Area Director will meet with the athlete to review the unacceptable behavior and to agree on a plan for improvement.

If the athlete has a guardian, the athlete will be accompanied by their guardian. If the athlete is their own guardian, they may choose to have another adult present. The meeting will be documented in writing. Copies will be sent to the athlete, Area Director, guardian, and the state office.

Step 4 Suspension from practices or competition for a specific time period.

The Area Director must be contacted before an athlete is suspended. Depending on the incident, the Area Director may contact the Area Management Team for further direction. The Area Director will make the final decision. The action will be documented in writing and presented to the athlete and parent/guardian. A copy will be sent to the state office.

Final Step If the incident is severe enough, the athlete could be banned from participation in Special Olympics.

ATHLETE APPEAL PROCESS

The athlete has the right to appeal any disciplinary action to the Area Director. The athlete or the athlete's representative must submit a written notice of appeal, with a copy to the Area Director and to the Executive Director of Special Olympics Michigan. This notice must include a request for a meeting within 30 days of being notified of the disciplinary action.

The appeal will be heard by the Area Director, the Director of Area Management or the Director of Sports and Training, and the Chair from the Program Committee or designee not involved with the situation. A decision must be rendered in writing within 21 days following the meeting and may reverse, amend, or affirm the disciplinary action. The decision shall be submitted to the athlete and to the Area Program and should include, if applicable, a plan of action for the athlete to correct the unacceptable behavior that led to the disciplinary action.