



Special Olympics Nebraska

Coaches Code of Conduct

I understand I am a representative of Special Olympics, both on and off the field, and my actions should uphold the highest standards. As a coach with Special Olympics Nebraska I agree to abide by the Special Olympics Coaches Code of Conduct as stated below:

Respect for Others

- ✓ I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, coaches, 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 I coach, the time spent with Special Olympics is a positive experience.
- ✓ 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 athlete's 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 athlete's ability at all preliminary competition and finals competition in accordance with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.
- ✓ I will encourage athletes to embrace a fit and healthy lifestyle.

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. This includes personal abuse via social media (ie: texting, tweeting, email, and facebook).
- ✓ I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care.
- ✓ I will abide by the Special Olympics policy on the prohibition of coaches dating athletes.

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 plan for a regular training program.
- ✓ I will keep copies of the medical, training and competition records for each athlete I coach.
- ✓ I will follow the Special Olympics, International Federation, National Federation/Governing Body rules for my sport(s).

Health and Safety of Athletes

- ✓ I will ensure that the equipment and facilities are safe to use.
- ✓ I will ensure that the equipment, rules, training and 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 toward sick and injured athletes.
- ✓ I will allow further participation in training and competition only when appropriate.

If the behaviors, attitudes, or actions of any coach or other participant of the member organization be contrary to these principles or to the goals and mission of Special Olympics Nebraska, then one or more of the following steps may be taken by the Program Committee, Sports Officials, and/or by SONE in an effort to alleviate the situation without further affecting the athletes of SONE:

The coach will be notified of the undesirable behavior or action and requested to remedy the situation for continued participation.

The coach will be requested to withdraw, personally or as an organization, from the remainder of the event and/or game/match.

If a team is found using an ineligible or illegal player, the team will forfeit all games in which the athlete played and will also forfeit any awards that were received, and the team will not advance to the next level of competition.

In the event of extreme or repeated behavior or actions, Special Olympics Nebraska may:

Suspend the coach or organization from participating in any or all SONE activity pending further investigation into the alleged behavior or action.

Suspend the coach or organization from participating in SONE activity for a specified period of time to be determined by the President/CEO of SONE or designee and/or the Program Committee.

Ban the coach or organization from participating in SONE activity indefinitely.

If a coach is suspended or their coaching status has been revoked by SONE, then all sport certifications will be revoked, and the individual must re-certify those sports records. The coach must submit a letter to the Vice President of Program explaining why they should be reinstated as a coach. If approval is granted for reinstatement, the individual will be required to submit a new Category A volunteer form, complete a new background check, and complete the Protective Behaviors training. Sports re-certification cannot occur until after they have been reinstated as a coach.

I understand that if I violate this Code of Conduct I will be subject to a range of consequences, up to and including being prohibited from coaching in Special Olympics.

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Team/Delegation: _____ Date ____/____/____