

Spectator Code of Conduct

By design, Special Olympics Ontario Sport Programs and Competitions are intended to be a positive learning experience; whereby athletes learn skills, gain physical fitness, have fun, and build positive relationships through mentoring and modeled behaviour.

Therefore as a spectator at any and all Special Olympics Ontario competitions or practises I will

FOLLOW THE GOLDEN RULE – and treat coaches, parents, spectators, officials and players in the same manner I would like to be treated. This means with respect, dignity, and total sportsmanship at all times.

REMEMBER IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE FUN – and will help make it that way. I will encourage enjoyment, participation and improvement over game/event results.

BE A GOOD SPORT – and not boo, taunt, scream, gesture or make comments at, or about, players, coaches, fans or officials. I will offer applause and cheers of encouragement for both teams following a good play or a great effort.

NOT USE DRUGS, ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO – at any sporting venue, social event, including practises and competitions, and will only smoke in designated areas.

LEARN THE RULES – of the game and the policies of SOO. I will abide by those rules and policies and insist that all others in attendance abide by those rules and policies.

NOT QUESTION OR ARGUE WITH AN OFFICIAL OR COACH'S CALL – I may not agree with a call, however it's not my job or the athletes job to officiate the game. An official's call should never be discussed by a parent or spectator.

ASK POLITELY TO TALK WITH THE COACH QUIETLY AND TO THE SIDE, AFTER THE GAME, AWAY FROM OTHERS – Or better yet, I will wait until the next day to discuss the issue. I will let the heat of the moment pass. I will never make a scene in front of the team as it's embarrassing for me, the athlete and the coach and chances are nothing will get resolved.

KNOW MY PLACE – I will remain in designated spectator viewing areas and never enter the field of play, bowling lane, pool deck, ice surface etc.



INSIST MY CHILD SIT ON THE BENCH – between innings, frames, events, and cheer on their teammates and not visit other spectators or me. All athletes are part of a team and that team is relying on all of its members.

MOTIVATE THROUGH CONFIDENCE – I will try to identify something positive from every game or practice to help build confidence. An athlete's sense of achievement is the greatest motivator.

PUT WINNING AND LOSING INTO PERSPECTIVE – Games must have winners and losers. I will remind myself and others of this reality and the need to deal with both outcomes respectfully.

I also agree if I fail to abide by the above **zero tolerance rules and guidelines** I will be subject to consequences, which pending decision by a Disciplinary Committee, could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Verbal warning by staff, official, manager or coach
- Written warning by staff, official, manager or coach
- Be asked to leave the site immediately by staff, official, manager or coach.
- Spectator and athlete game suspension with written documentation kept on file.