



Special Olympics Ontario School Programs Code of Conduct

Note: All Special Olympics Ontario school program events, including but not limited to school qualifiers and championships, are subject to the following codes of conduct.

A. Athlete Code of Conduct

Note that an Athlete is any individual registered on the team roster. This includes both traditional and unified participants.

Each athlete shall adhere to the following:

- 1) Adhere to the [Athlete's Rights and Responsibilities](#).
- 2) Maintain high standards of conduct, which include self-control and responsible behaviour. An athlete should consider the well-being of others and display courtesy and good manners.
- 3) Avoid profane or abusive language and disruptive behaviour, including behaviour that is dangerous to self and/or others, including acts of violence, harassment, physical or sexual abuse.
- 4) Abide by the competition rules, especially the Special Olympics Ontario Official Sports Rules.
- 5) Abstain from the use of illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and/or illegal substances when participating in any Special Olympics-sponsored or sanctioned activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, training/practice sessions and competition events.
- 6) Abstain from all illegal activity.
- 7) Uphold and Honour the athlete's oath to the best of their ability ("Let Me Win, But If I Cannot Win Let me Be Brave in the Attempt")

Code of Conduct Infractions

Special Olympics Ontario has sole and absolute discretion as to any disciplinary actions to be taken if a person violates the Athlete Code of Conduct. Any action taken is predicated on the good faith belief of Special Olympics Ontario that the disciplinary action is appropriate.

The following disciplinary actions may be taken:

- Issue a warning.
- Suspension from a school qualifier or qualifier(s)
- Suspension from school championships
- Suspension from further participation in any Special Olympics programs or activities
- Expulsion from further participation in any Special Olympics programs or activities.

Immediate Suspension

A person may be subject to immediate disciplinary action, including suspension, for conduct which, in Special Olympics's sole and absolute discretion, is so inherently harmful as to warrant immediate action. Immediate disciplinary action, including suspension, may be imposed for any of the following:

- a) Illegal Conduct
- b) Behaviour Problems
- c) Alcohol, Cannabis or Illegal Substance
- d) Abuse



B. Coach Code of Conduct

Note a Coach: A coach is defined as any school representative who is affiliated with the team, including but not limited to other teachers, educational assistants, and support staff.

The Code of Conduct is designed to assist each coach in abiding by the mission and philosophy of Special Olympics Ontario. Each teacher-coach is responsible for preparing their athletes for the conduct expected of them during participation in Special Olympics events. For the duration of their absence from home or school, the teacher-coach is in charge of their students' conduct, safety, support and supervision. The procedures outlined in this code of conduct will also ensure coaches/teachers/educational assistants will be treated with respect and openness. Any teacher or coach who does not follow this Code of Conduct can be prohibited from participating in any Special Olympics training or competition event.

Each Coach, Teacher or Support Staff Member will adhere to the following:

1. During play, coaches and support staff cannot participate in the competition in any way beyond physically supporting individuals who need one-on-one support or guidance to compete (cannot participate in active play).
2. Ensure that accurate skill assessment scores and competition stream classifications are provided for the entry of a team or athlete into any event.
3. Ensuring the meaningful involvement of all players in the game.
4. Ensuring that unified partners do not dominate games.
5. Review and know each athlete's medical forms, possible accommodations, and medications, and be aware of any limitations on that athlete's participation.
6. Ensure each athlete performs to the best of their ability at all qualifiers and championships in accordance with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.
7. Display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved in the sport (athletes, coaches, opponents, officials, administrators, parents, spectators, media, etc.).
8. Treat everyone equally regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
9. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, coaches, other volunteers, friends and spectators in Special Olympics.
10. Be a positive role model for the athletes
11. Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each athlete.
12. Ensure each athlete competes in events that challenge that athlete's potential and are appropriate to that athlete's ability.
13. Ensure athletes seek medical attention when required.
14. Alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward your athletes.
15. Not drinking alcohol, smoking or taking illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics at any time during team functions, practises, overnight trips and competitions. This includes in residence or accommodation budlings at all times.
16. Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes and others, including inappropriate or unwanted sexual advances on others and verbal, physical and emotional abuse.

In Addition to the Above Policies, Each Adult School Representative Shall Adhere to the Following on Overnight Special Olympics Events:

1. The teacher-coach bears the responsibility for supervising his or her athletes for the entire period during which they are absent from school or home.
2. Must be available and present at the event and accommodation site for the duration of their athlete's time in that event or accommodation.

Infractions/Discipline/ Consequences



Special Olympics Ontario has sole and absolute discretion as to any disciplinary actions to be taken if a person violates the Coach Code of Conduct. Any action taken is predicated on the good faith belief of Special Olympics Ontario that the disciplinary action is appropriate. The following disciplinary actions may be taken:

- a) Ejection from a game or event
- b) Suspension from School Championships or Qualifiers
- c) Prohibited from coaching or participating in any Special Olympics event in any form or fashion
- d) Notification to appropriate governing bodies
- e) Requiring written letter of apology and requiring appropriate restitution.

C. Spectator Code of Conduct

Note a Spectator: A Spectator is defined as any individual not registered as a member of the participating teams, an official or staff member.

Special Olympics Ontario is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all sports programs and competitions, ensuring a positive learning experience whereby athletes learn skills, gain physical fitness, have fun, and build positive relationships through mentoring and modelled behaviour. Everyone is welcome and should expect to help promote an environment where people are treated courteously, professionally, considerately, and respectfully. Special has a zero-tolerance policy and will not tolerate unsafe, abusive, unlawful or offensive conduct at our events. Therefore, spectators will abide by the following expectations and guidelines at any and all Special Olympics Ontario competitions or functions:

1. **Follow the golden rule** and treat staff, coaches, parents, spectators, officials and players with respect, dignity and total sportsmanship at all times.
2. **Remember, it is supposed to be fun**– and will help make it that way. I will encourage enjoyment, participation and improvement over game/event results.
3. **Be a good sport**– and do 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.
4. **Do not use drugs, alcohol or tobacco** at any sporting venue or social event, including practices and competitions, and will only smoke in designated areas.
5. **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.
6. **No matter the circumstance, do not question or argue with the official or coach's** call. A parent or spectator should never discuss an official's call. Concerns can be brought to the attention of a Special Olympics staff member.
7. **Not interfering with the competition**, including entering the field of play, throwing objects of any kind, or incidents of distraction (e.x. artificial noisemakers). Spectators must remain in designated spectator viewing areas and never enter the field of play.
8. **Put Winning and Losing into Perspective** – Games must have winners and losers. Deal with both outcomes respectfully.
9. **Uphold the spirit of Special Olympics sports** by encouraging enjoyment, participation and improvement over game/event results.
10. **Follow requests and guidelines from the venue or Special Olympics staff** regarding event operations, policies and emergency response procedures.
11. **Not displaying disruptive, harmful or disorderly behaviour** or any act which presents a risk to the safety of other individuals.
12. Not displaying signs, symbols, or images using language or **making gestures that are threatening, abusive, or discriminatory**, including on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, ability, and/or sexual orientation.
13. **Will not engage in any illegal conduct**



14. In overnight events, spectators, regardless of affiliation to the athlete, **may not enter athlete accommodation buildings** under any circumstances.

Infractions/Discipline/ Consequences

Spectators who fail to abide by the above **zero-tolerance rules and guidelines** will be subject to consequences, which could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Verbal warning by staff, official, manager or coach
- b) Written warning by staff, official, manager or coach
- c) Be asked to leave the site immediately by staff, officials, managers or coaches.
- d) Spectators will be banned from attending any Special Olympics Event

D. Volunteers

Note: A Volunteer is defined as any individual who assists in any task related to executing any Special Olympics event.

Volunteers are an integral part of all Special Olympics competitions and events. Therefore, volunteers carry a significant responsibility to ensure the event's success and the athletes' positive experience.

Volunteers will:

1. Act with honesty and integrity while carrying out any assigned responsibilities.
2. Treat all participants with respect, encouragement, and support.
3. Understand their roles and responsibilities and carry them out with full effort and enthusiasm.
4. Comply with the spirit of Special Olympics sports and foster an inclusive and positive environment.
5. Take responsibility for actions and decisions.
6. Do not use offensive or derogatory language or profanity.
7. Dress and act professionally.

Failure to abide by the above **zero-tolerance rules and guidelines** will result in suspension or removal of volunteer opportunities with Special Olympics.

E. Officials

Note an Official is defined as any individual who assists in the regulation or refereeing of any game regardless of whether they are a paid or volunteer official.

Officials play a vital role in the education and application of each Special Olympics event, ensuring the safety of the athletes and the flow of the game. Officials are responsible for ensuring fair and safe play.

Officials will:

1. Review, understand and apply the Special Olympics technical rule package to gameplay.
2. Ensure the safety of each athlete during play.
3. Display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved in the sport (athletes, coaches, administrators, parents)
4. Take ownership of actions and decisions made while officiating
5. Act openly, impartially, professionally, lawfully, and in good faith
6. Be fair, equitable, considerate, independent, honest, and impartial in all dealings with others
7. Dress in proper attire for officiating.



Failure to abide by the above **zero-tolerance rules and guidelines** will result in suspension or removal of officiating opportunities with Special Olympics.

F. Host – Unstaffed

Note a Host: It is defined as any entity, such as a school or venue, that provides the facility or space for any event.

Host Schools are critical to the Special Olympics and the success of all our events and programs. Therefore, the hosts carry a significant responsibility to ensure the event's safety and success and the athletes' positive experience. Host will:

1. Ensure that the equipment and facilities are safe to use and all hazards have been assessed and removed
2. Ensure that the equipment, rules, training and environment are appropriate for the age and ability of the athletes.
3. Ensure proper accessibility of their facilities for all participants.
4. Ensure visiting schools are respected and given all possible support and encouragement to have a positive experience.
5. Provide adequate space for spectators, lunch, teams and competitions!

Infractions/Discipline/ Consequences

Hosts who fail to abide by the above **zero-tolerance rules and guidelines** will be subject to consequences, which could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Verbal warning by staff
- b) Written warning by staff
- c) Suspension of hosting privileges
- d) Loss of hosting privileges