

Special Olympics Kansas



Athlete Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy

Special Olympics Kansas prides itself in sponsoring high-quality physical fitness training and sports competitions for people with intellectual disabilities. The primary purpose of the Code of Conduct is to establish a high standard of athlete behavior which will ensure the safety and well-being of all athletes involved in training and competition. All athletes are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct and standards of behavior as established by Special Olympics Kansas. While representing or participating in Special Olympics, all Special Olympics athletes and Unified Sports partners will obey the Athlete Code of Conduct. This includes while participating or attending any Special Olympics activity, including transportation to and from the activity. If there is reason to believe any athlete has a criminal history, a background check will be issued by Special Olympics Kansas, at which time the individual must submit their full name, social security number and birth date. Each situation will be assessed case by case and the appropriate decision regarding participation will be made by Special Olympics Kansas.

The Code

All Special Olympics athletes and Unified Sports partners agree to the following code:

Sportsmanship

- I will practice good sportsmanship.
- I will act in ways that bring respect to me, my coaches, my team and Special Olympics.
- I will not use bad language.
- I will not swear or insult other individuals.
- I will not fight with other athletes, coaches, volunteers or staff.

Training and Competition

- I will train regularly.
- I will learn and follow the rules of my sport.
- I will listen to my coaches and the officials and ask questions when I do not understand.
- I will always try my best during training, divisioning and competitions.
- I will not “hold back” in preliminaries just to get into an easier final heat.

Responsibility for my Actions

- I will not make inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal or sexual advances on others.
- I will not drink alcohol, smoke or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics at training sessions, competitions or during Games.
- I will not take drugs for the purpose of improving my performance.
- I will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules.

I understand that if I do not obey this Code of Conduct, Special Olympics Kansas may not allow me to participate.

Disciplinary Actions for Not Following the Athlete Code of Conduct

The following progressive disciplinary actions may be taken by a Local Program and/or Special Olympics Kansas state office. Depending upon the nature of the incident, any actions may be bypassed in the disciplinary process. Physical aggression toward another athlete, coach, community member, volunteer or staff will result in accelerated disciplinary action. An Incident Report Form should be completed and kept on file for any athlete or volunteer with whom there are ongoing behavioral or safety concerns, and must be completed immediately if it is suspected further disciplinary action may be needed. Copies of Incident Report Forms should be forwarded as soon as completed to the Regional Director for your region or to the state office. Regional Directors and Local Program Coordinators must involve Special Olympics Kansas State Office staff prior to suspension or release of a volunteer or athlete.

Action One: A verbal warning will be given to the athlete and documented on an Incident Report Form with the Local Program and SOKS State Office.

Action Two: A written warning will be given to the athlete. Prior to this action being taken, an Incident Report Form must be completed and sent to the SOKS State Office. Subsequent to its receipt, the written warning will be given to the athlete with a copy to the appropriate individuals.

Action Three: Personal meeting with the athlete to review unacceptable behavior and work out a plan for improvement. If the athlete is under age 18, he/she will be accompanied by his/her parent/guardian or caseworker. If the athlete is over age 18, a third person selected by the athlete will attend the meeting. The meeting will be documented in writing and copies distributed to the athlete, SOKS President/CEO, Local Program file, parent/guardian or caseworker.

Action Four: Suspension from practices or competition during the specific sport season. The Special Olympics Kansas State Office must be contacted before a Local Program suspends an athlete. A representative from the SOKS State Office will discuss the circumstances with the Local Program and approve the action. The action will be documented in writing and presented to the athlete, parent/guardian and a copy will be filed at the State Office. Any further action must be referred to the SOKS President/CEO who will approve further action. Further action could be, but is not limited to:

- Suspension for more than one sport season.
- Expulsion for one year or more and even lifetime ban to protect volunteers, athletes and other community members.