



SPECIAL OLYMPICS VOLUNTEER/UNIFIED PARTNER CODE OF CONDUCT

Special Olympics is committed to the highest ideals of conduct and expects all Volunteers/Unified Partners to honor Special Olympics Montana rules and regulations. All Special Olympics Volunteers/Unified Partners agree to observe the following code of conduct:

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, coaches, other volunteers, friends, and spectators in Special Olympics.
- I will practice good sportsmanship: I will act in a way that brings respect to me, other volunteers, my team, and 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 encounter.

ENSURE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

- I will ensure that for each athlete the time spent with Special Olympics is positive.
- I will respect the talent, developmental stage, and goals of each athlete.
- I will be fair, considerate, and honest with athletes and communicate with athletes using simple, clear language.
- I will encourage each athlete to perform to the best of the athlete's ability in all that they do.

ACT PROFESSIONALLY AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS

- My language, manner, sportsmanship, punctuality, preparation, and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity, and professionalism to all involved. (athletes, coaches, opponents, officials, administrators, parents, spectators, media, etc.).
- I will encourage athletes to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I will not use alcohol, marijuana, tobacco products, illegal drugs or any other substance causing impairment while representing Special Olympics and/or participating at Special Olympics functions including training sessions, practices, and for the duration of Special Olympics Games travel, overnights, and/or competition.
- I will follow the team's established communication channels, refrain from posting negative or inappropriate comments on social media and communicate directly with SOMT staff and volunteers on all matters.
- I will refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes and others, including verbal,



physical and emotional abuse.

- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed towards athletes in my care.

QUALITY SERVICE TO THE ATHLETES

- I will seek ongoing training and information from other volunteers and my Local Program Coordinator to improve my knowledge/skills to best serve the athletes.
- I will be knowledgeable about SOMT rules and expectations to support athletes at the local program level.
- I will do my best to support the needs of our local program by getting to know the athletes in our program and make myself aware of any medical concerns with athletes in our program.
- I will look for opportunities and ways to support the Local Program Coordinator and other coaches and volunteers.

HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE ATHLETES

- I will ensure that the equipment and facilities are safe to use.
- I will ensure that the equipment and the environment are appropriate for the age and ability of the athletes.
- I will not engage in any inappropriate contact or relationships with athletes, volunteers, or other participants in Special Olympics.
- I will not leave athletes unattended while at practice, events, or overnight stays.
- I will be aware of any medical limitations regarding an athlete’s participation.
- I will encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required.
- I will maintain the same interest and support towards sick and injured athletes.

By signing below, I understand that if I violate this Code of Conduct in any way, shape, or form, I will be subject to a range of consequences, up to and including being prohibited from volunteering in Special Olympics.

Please sign, date, and return to:

*Special Olympics Montana
P.O. Box 3507
Great Falls, MT 59403-3507*

Volunteer/Unified Partner Signature _____

Date _____

Volunteer/Unified Partner Signature – Print Name _____