

Athlete Code of Conduct

Special Olympics ND Cass County adheres to the highest ideals of sport in the tradition of the Olympic movement. The Special Olympics Oath, "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt," represents the ideal of competition that every Special Olympics athlete tries to achieve.

All Special Olympics athletes are expected to abide by the following code of conduct:

Sportsmanship

- Athletes will practice good sportsmanship and act in ways that will bring respect to coaches, their team, Special Olympics, and themselves.
- Athletes will not use bad language, such as swearing or insulting other persons, and will not fight with other athletes, coaches, volunteers, or staff.
- Athletes will show respect towards fellow athletes, coaches, and volunteers at all times. Athletes will not make fun of other people or criticize them, but give them praise and positive recognition.

Training & Competition

- Athletes will train regularly and attend scheduled practices and meet training criteria set by coaches and area to be able to participate in Area, District, and State Tournaments.
- Athletes will be on time and ready to practice at the designated start time. If late, extra laps will be run.
- Athletes will attend at least 80% of the practice session to be eligible for tournament play (4 practices for most sports).
- Athletes will dress in appropriate clothing for sports - no jeans, street shoes, or baseball caps.
- Athletes will bring water or a sports drink to practices; pop will not be allowed.
- Athletes need to attend Area and Districts to be eligible for State Tournaments. If unable, athletes must have it pre-approved by the Area Director.
- Athletes must participate in both days of a State Tournament; cannot miss the first day and expect to play the second.
- Athletes will have a current medical on file. If the medical is not turned in by the third week of practice, they may not be eligible for State.
- Athletes will be responsible for their own transportation to and from practice and designated pick-up area for tournaments.

Responsibility for Actions

- Athletes will not make unwanted physical, verbal, psychological, or sexual advances on others in person or through social media.
- Athletes will not drink alcohol, smoke tobacco in non-smoking areas, or use illegal drugs at Special Olympics venue sites, and will not take drugs for the purpose of improving their performance.
- Athletes will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules.
- Athletes will leave their personal relationships outside of practices and/or competitions. Athletes will be placed on a team based on ability, not on whether they like someone or not.

Code of Conduct Violations

If a Special Olympics athlete violates any part of this code of conduct, Special Olympics Cass County may impose disciplinary actions that could include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Verbal warning by officials, coaches, and/or County, Area, State personnel
- Asked to leave practice – counts as an unexcused absence
- Will not be allowed to attend state.
- Game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file in the Local Program, Region, and SOND State Office
- Written warning
- Suspension

Do you Understand the Athlete Code of Conduct Agreement?

By signing below, I am saying that:

- I have read (or have had read to me) this Athlete Code of Conduct Agreement.
- I agree to obey this Athlete Code of Conduct Agreement.
- I understand that this Athlete Code of Conduct Agreement is a general guide for my conduct and does not describe all types of good and bad behavior.
- I understand that my future participation in Special Olympics activities could be affected if I do not obey this Athlete Code of Conduct Agreement.

_____	_____	_____
Athlete's Name	Athlete's Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Parent/Guardian or Witness	Parent/Guardian or Witness Signature	Date