



**Special Olympics Pennsylvania
Code of Conduct**

In an effort to become a more inclusive organization, Special Olympics Pennsylvania has created a Code of Conduct to help everyone of all ability levels understand how to appropriately conduct themselves and make SOPA a safe and fun organization for everyone involved.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Respect & Sportsmanship:

- I will respect participants, coaches, officials, volunteers, spectators, training/competition facilities, SOPA Staff, and myself.
- I will respect the decision of officials and SOPA staff and will communicate any difference of opinion I may have in accordance to SOPA guidelines.
- I will respect all individuals regardless of their ability or limitations.
- I will demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times regardless win or lose.

Behavior:

- I will wear appropriate attire with pride to the delegation that is required at all times.
- I will keep my appearance and hygiene appropriate at all times.
- I will not use profanity or insulting language and/or gestures while representing Special Olympics PA.
- I will not smoke, use tobacco products, consume alcohol or take any drugs or drugs not prescribed to me while representing Special Olympics PA.
- I will not take pictures and/or videos of participants, coaches, officials, volunteers, spectators and SOPA Staff that may make them or someone else uncomfortable or are inappropriate.
- I will not engage in inappropriate contact, relationships, or any other physical/verbal/sexual advances or any conduct that may make someone else feel uncomfortable.
- I understand SOPA's No Dating Policy between athletes and volunteers/staff and I will contact SOPA's Senior VP of Programming if further explanation is required.
- I will represent Special Olympics PA with appropriate behavior in competitive and non competitive situations which include, but are not limited to: restrooms, locker rooms, housing and dining facilities.

Responsibility for Actions:

- I know that personal belongings (cell phone, hand held audio/video devices, wallet, keys, etc.) I bring to training, competition, and traveling are my responsibility and my local program and/or SOPA are not responsible.
- I will express any concerns I may have to the appropriate person in a positive manner.
- I will obey all local, state and Federal laws.

- I will follow all rules implemented by SOPA and/ or the host of any other event I am representing Special Olympics PA.

ATHLETE/UNIFIED PARTNER GUIDELINES

Responsibility for Actions:

- I will not use my cell phone and any other electronic devices while training and competing unless in an emergency.
- If I am caught using a personal device at an inappropriate time and/or in an inappropriate manner (i.e. making a phone call/texting during training and competition), I understand the device I used may be taken away by my coach(es) or local management team member for a period of time.
- I will follow all training, competition and travel instructions by my coach(es).
- I will stay with my delegation at all times.
- I will use locker rooms and housing facilities appropriate to my gender.

Honest Effort:

- I will learn and follow the rules of my sport.
- I will give my best effort while training and competing.
- I will not hold back during preliminary rounds by playing below my ability level to get placed into an easier division.

Well-Being:

- I will have my Application for Participation current prior to the start of the season.
- I will communicate all changes that may occur on my Application for Participation during any season.

COACH/LOCAL PROGRAM VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

Responsibility For Actions:

- I will not use my cell phone and any other electronic devices while training and competing unless in an emergency.
- I will ensure my team is aware that they may lose the use of their personal electronic devices for a period of time if used inappropriately (i.e. making a phone call/texting during training and competition).
- I will make sure my team follows instructions while training, competing, and traveling.
- I will chaperone the athletes and unified partners assigned to me.
- I will make sure my team uses locker rooms and housing facilities appropriate to their gender.
- I will make sure my sports knowledge and coaches training is up to date to ensure a positive experience and safety of the athletes.

Honest Effort:

- I will follow the rules of my sport and will educate my team if needed.
- I will ensure that accurate scores are provided for entry into any event.
- I will encourage my team to give their best effort during training and competition.
- I will not encourage my team to hold back during preliminary rounds by playing below their ability level to get placed into an easier division.

Well-Being:

- I will make sure that I always have the most up to date copies of Application for Participation forms for my team during each training and competition.
- In cases of severe injury and/or illness (i.e. concussion) I will ensure approval of a certified medical professional before allowing a sick/injured member to resume physical activities.
- I will read and take note of limitations that anyone on my team may have that are included on their Application for Participation.

SIGN OFF

- I have read, or have had read to me, both the general guidelines for the SOPA Code of Conduct, as well as the guidelines in regards to my position as an Athlete, Unified Partner, Coach, or Local Program Volunteer. By signing this Code of Conduct, I understand any violations may result in the loss of my eligibility to participate in and attend Special Olympics PA events.
- On behalf of _____, I have read and explained to them both the general guidelines for the SOPA Code of Conduct, as well as the guidelines in regards to their position as an Athlete, Unified Partner, Coach, or Local Program Volunteer. By signing this Code of Conduct on their behalf, I understand any violations may result in the loss of their eligibility to participate in and attend Special Olympics PA events.

Signature

Date