

THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS KENTUCKY COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

Special Olympics Coaches are role models whose behavior should serve as a positive example for their athletes. Their behavior should reflect a concern that the fairest and most positive competitive experience is equally available to every Special Olympian in a competition. The Coach has the unique opportunity to influence the development and personal growth of many individuals. For this reason, it is important that the coach adhere to the standards of ethical decision making and teaching. Recognizing this point, it is the position of SOKY that the coach shall:

- Provide a good example in appearance, conduct, language and sportsmanship while striving to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- Demonstrate and instill in their players a respect for and courtesy toward the opposing players, coaches, officials and spectators.
- Exhibit and develop in their players the ability to accept defeat or victory gracefully. The coach shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest desirable ideals of character.
- Be knowledgeable of and follow all existing Special Olympics and National Governing Body Rules.
- Provide for the general welfare, safety, health and well being of each Special Olympian in their charge – this entails supervision 24 hours a day.
- Direct criticism toward your athletes in a constructive, positive and objective manner.
- Ensure that each athlete has a current/valid SOKY medical on file with the state office and that copies of all medicals are with you during any Special Olympics activity.
- Cooperate with the SOKY staff and Competition Directors in establishing and conducting a quality athletic program.
- Encourage spectators (family members & other team supporters) to display conduct of respect and hospitality toward opponents and officials and to recognize good play and sportsmanship.
- Refrain from using alcohol or any mind altering substance while at Special Olympics events/competitions.
- Refrain from use of all tobacco products at SOKY events (i.e. sports venues, staging areas, opening/closing ceremonies, etc).
- Do not engage in any inappropriate contact or relationship with SOKY athletes and/or volunteers.

Should the behaviors and/or abilities of any coach or other faction of your school/organization be contrary to these responsibilities or to the philosophies of Special Olympics, then one or more of the following actions may be taken by SOKY:

1. The coach may be notified of the undesirable behavior and be requested to remedy the situation for continued participation. In other words an official **warning** will be given.
2. The coach may be withdrawn personally or as an organization from the remainder of an event or tournament.

In the event of extreme and/or repeated behavior contrary to the best interests of Special Olympics athletes or Special Olympics, SOKY may:

1. Prevent the coach or organization from participating in any or all Special Olympics events for a specified period of time.
2. Prevent the coach or organization from participating in Special Olympics Kentucky indefinitely.