

## **SPECIAL OLYMPICS VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT**

Special Olympics is committed to the highest ideals of sport and expects all volunteers to act in a manner that both contributes to the overall mission of Special Olympics and follows Special Olympics Virginia policies. All Special Olympics Volunteers 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 treat everyone equally regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
- I will be a positive role model for the athletes.
- I will respect the property of hotels, dormitories, athletic facilities and dining facilities.

### **ENSURE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE**

- I will ensure that Special Olympics is a positive experience for the athletes.
- I will be fair, considerate and honest with athletes and communicate with athletes using simple, clear language.
- I will instruct each athlete to perform to the best of the athlete's ability at all preliminary competitions and final competitions in accordance with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.

### **ACT PROFESSIONALLY AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS**

- I will provide for the general welfare, health and safety of any Special Olympics athlete in my charge during the course of my assigned duties.
- My language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved in the sport (athletes, coaches, opponents, officials, administrators, parents, spectators, media, etc.).
- I will encourage athletes to demonstrate the same qualities as above.
- I will not smoke or chew tobacco at any Special Olympics training or competition site except in designated areas.
- I will not drink alcohol or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics at any Special Olympics event, training or competition.
- I will refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes and others, including inappropriate or unwanted sexual advances on others, verbal, physical and emotional abuse.
- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care.
- I will report any emergencies to the appropriate authorities after first taking immediate action to ensure the health and safety of the participants.
- I will abide by the Special Olympics policy on the prohibition of coaches dating athletes.
- I will not engage in sexual activities during any Special Olympics training or at competitions.

## **QUALITY SERVICE TO THE ATHLETES**

- I will assist to provide the highest quality event possible.
- I will be a positive role model for the athletes in the program.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE ATHLETES**

- I will assist in ensuring that the equipment and facilities are safe to use.
- I will encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required.
- I will maintain the same interest and support towards sick and injured athletes as healthy athletes.
- I will allow further participation in training and competition after an illness or injury only when appropriate.
- I will assist when necessary making sure that prescribed medications and over-the-counter medications are taken at the proper times according to instructions given by the parent/guardian.