

SOPA - SOYC ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

What is the Code of Conduct?

The Code of Conduct was established to address unsportsmanlike or inappropriate behavior displayed by a coach, volunteer, or athlete during a Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) training or competition event.

SOPA CODE OF CONDUCT

SOPA is committed to the highest ideals of sports and expects all athletes to honor sportsmanship and Special Olympics. All Special Olympics athletes and Unified Partners agree to the following code:

- **SPORTSMANSHIP**
 - Practice good sportsmanship
 - Act in ways that bring respect to me, my coaches, my team, and Special Olympics
 - Refrain from using bad language
 - Refrain from swearing or insulting other persons
 - Refrain from fighting with other athletes, coaches, volunteers or staff
- **TRAINING and COMPETITION**
 - Train regularly
 - Learn and follow the rules of my sport
 - Listen to my coaches and the officials and ask questions when I do not understand
 - Always try my best during training, preliminaries, and competitions
 - Refrain from "holding back" in preliminaries just to get into an easier heat
- **RESPONSIBILITY for MY ACTIONS**
 - Refrain from making inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal, or sexual advances to others
 - Refrain from smoking in non-smoking areas
 - Refrain from drinking alcohol or using illegal drugs at Special Olympics events
 - Refrain from taking drugs for the purpose of improving my performance
 - Obey all laws and Special Olympics Rules

As an athlete, I understand that if I do not obey this Code of Conduct, I will be subject to a range of consequences by my Program or a Games Organizing Committee which may include not being allowed to participate.

What is the Honest Effort Rule?

Athletes are to participate honestly and with maximum effort in all preliminary trials and/or finals. Athletes competing 25% faster / better in finals than their best time/score (either preliminary or entry score) will not receive an award.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS YORK COUNTY CODE OF CONDUCT ADDITIONS

- Smoking refers to the prohibited use of all tobacco/nicotine products: cigarettes, pipes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, electronic cigarette replacements.
- An illegal drug also refers to the abuse of prescription medication that has been dispensed to another person and to the use of all mind altering substances.
- Bad language and swearing also includes the use of foul language.
- Inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal, or sexual advances also includes public displays of affection
- When I represent Special Olympics, my appearance will be neat and clean. I will be showered, shaved, teeth brushed, clean and combed hair, and wearing appropriate clothing for the occasion. Jeans / denim fabric is never acceptable. Safe and appropriate footwear for the sport and the occasion is mandatory.
- All clothing is to be modest and provide adequate coverage of undergarments, chest, mid drift, abdomen, and buttocks.
- Sports and activities requiring a bathing suit require that the bathing suit be supportive and well fitting, and provide adequate coverage. If this is not possible, a t-shirt will be worn over the swim suit to provide adequate coverage.
- When I am participating in or at a Special Olympics event, I will stay with my team and my coach.
- I will be a good example to others on my team, others in our organization, and to athletes from other teams and organizations.
- I will respect the Management Team, Head Coach, and Assistant Coaches at all times.
- Obey all laws and Special Olympics rules.

Athlete: _____

Date: _____

Head Coach: _____

Date: _____