

Code of Conduct for Special Olympics Australia Coaches, Volunteers & Officials at training and competition

Special Olympics Australia prides itself on providing high quality sports training and competitions for people with an intellectual disability. This Code of Conduct establishes the standard for coach behaviour.

Special Olympics Australia volunteers agree to:

Respect for Others

- Respect the rights and dignity of athletes coaches, other volunteers, friends and spectators at Special Olympics training and events
- Treat everybody equally regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability
- Be a positive role model for the athletes they coach
- Not engage in any form of bullying, either in person or via any electronic medium

Ensure a Positive Experience

- Ensure that the time spent with athletes is a positive experience
- Ensure that athletes compete in events that challenge their potential and are appropriate to their ability
- Be fair, considerate and honest with athletes and communicate with them using plain and clear language
- Provide accurate scores for entry of an athlete into any competition
- Instruct each athlete to perform to the best of their ability at all competitions in accordance with the rules of Special Olympics Sports Rules

Act professionally and take responsibility for my actions

- Demonstrate high standards through my language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation
- Display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved in the sport (athletes, other coaches, opponents, officials, administrators, parents, spectators and media)
- Encourage athletes to demonstrate the same qualities
- Abstain from drinking alcohol, smoking or taking illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics at training sessions or during competition
- Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes and others, including verbal physical and emotional abuse.
- Be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care

Quality Coaching for Athletes

- Assess each athlete to determine the individual and/or team skill level for training and competition
- Develop a training program for athletes which shall include instruction in fundamental skills, conditioning and competition rules appropriate to their ability. The training and competition program will be a minimum of eight (8) weeks
- Know, understand and abide by the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules
- Use acceptable and safe equipment and ensure acceptable supervision with adequate volunteer-to-athlete ratio
- Match athletes according to size, strength and ability
- Inform athletes of the inherent risks associated with a specific sport
- Review each athlete's medical form and be aware of any limitations noted on the form.
- Establish an emergency action plan that includes procedures for emergency medical support, postponements or cancellations, crisis communication and incident and accident reporting
- Encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required.
- Maintain accurate records