

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS FLORIDA ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

In May 2000, the first Global Athlete Congress was held in The Netherlands. Special Olympics athletes from all over the world met to discuss important issues. These athletes asked for a "Code of Conduct," or written set of rules for all athletes to follow. All Special Olympics competitors are ambassadors for the Special Olympics movement all around the world. This Code of Conduct holds all Special Olympics athletes to the highest standards of competition in keeping with the Olympic spirit.

Special Olympics show the world the highest ideals of sport just like the Olympic Games. The Special Olympics Athlete's Oath is:

*"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."*

Every Special Olympics athlete repeats these words before each competition. The oath is a pledge, or promise, to try to achieve the highest level of competition and good sportsmanship.

As a Special Olympics athlete, I pledge that:

### **RESPECT FOR OTHERS**

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of other athletes, coaches, volunteers, friends and spectators in Special Olympics.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
- I will display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved including athletes, coaches, opponents, officials, administrators, parents, spectators and media.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

- I will practice good sportsmanship.
- I will not use bad language. I will not swear or insult other persons. I will not fight with other athletes, coaches, volunteers, staff or spectators.
- I will train regularly and commit to knowing and playing by the rules of my sport.
- I will listen to my coaches and the officials and ask questions when I do not understand.
- I will always try my best during training, divisioning and competitions. I will not "hold back" in preliminaries just to get into an easier final heat.

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS FLORIDA**  
**ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT (cont)**

**RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MY ACTIONS**

- I will dress and act, at all times, in a professional manner that will be a credit to Special Olympics. Profanity, taunting and other forms of poor sportsmanship are subject to immediate ejection.
- I will not engage in any type of inappropriate behavior, sexual activity, and/or verbal or physical abuse with either Special Olympics athletes, staff, officials or other volunteers.
- I understand that I am responsible for my own actions, health and safety, to the extent that I am able.
- I will respect the property of hotels, dormitories, athletic facilities and dining facilities.
- I will not take part in the consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances during any Special Olympics training or competition.
- I will not take part in smoking or chewing tobacco at any training or competition site except in designated smoking areas.
- I will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules.

**By signing below, I am saying that:**

- I have read (or have had read to me) this Athlete Code of Conduct.
- I agree to obey this Athlete Code of Conduct.
- I understand the words and meaning of this Athlete Code of Conduct.
- I understand that this Athlete Code of Conduct is a general guide for my conduct and does not describe all types of good and bad behavior.
- I understand that if I do not obey this Code of Conduct my Program or a Games Organizing Committee may not allow me to participate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Athlete

\_\_\_\_\_  
DOB

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Athlete

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Witness: I hereby certify that I have reviewed this Code of Conduct with the athlete whose signature appears above. I am satisfied, based on that review, that the athlete understands this document and has agreed to its terms.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to athlete

**OR**

I have explained this Code of Conduct to my child/athlete and they understand to the best of their ability. I agree that my child/athlete will be held accountable for their behavior as specified in this Code of Conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date