

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTH CAROLINA FAMILY MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

We hope as family members you will embrace the spirit of Special Olympics and help us provide a competition and training environment that enhances athlete character and skill development.

As a Special Olympics North Carolina family member, I pledge the following:

- I will let my athlete choose the sports and events in which he/she would like to participate. I will not force my choice upon him/her.
- I will remember that athletes participate to have fun and that the game is for them, not the family members.
- I will see to it that my athlete's medical form is up-to-date, complete, and on file.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the SONC policies before I complain or protest.
- I will abide by the communication processes that are put in place for me, as a family member, to receive the information I need to support my athlete's participation.
- I understand that I play a vital role in the health and safety of my child/guard's participation and I have a responsibility to assist Special Olympics in providing for the health and safety of all athletes, by reporting suspicious behavior, talking to my child/guard about personal safety, dropping off and picking up my child/guard from Special Olympics events at the times designated by the organization (not excessively earlier or later than said established times), and any and all other reasonable measures to assist in the protection of Special Olympics athletes.
- I (and my guests) will never engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct, such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language and gestures, with any official, coach, or family member.
- I will praise my athlete for competing fairly and trying hard, and I will make my athlete feel like a winner every time. I will never ridicule or yell at my athlete, or other participants, for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will promote the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire that I may have for my athlete to win.
- I will refrain from coaching my athlete, or other athletes, during competitions and practices if I am not the assigned coach.

As an SONC family member, I also understand that, if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I may be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Verbal warning by officials, coaches, and/or County, Area, State personnel,
- Game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file in the Local Program, Area and SONC State Office,
- Written warning,
- Season suspension.

I hereby certify that I have reviewed, understood and agreed to this Code of Conduct.

Signature of Family Member

Date

Please print name

Local Program