

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS MISSOURI (SOMO)
PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT**

BOARD APPROVED AUGUST 9, 2003

The purpose of the SOMO Code of Conduct (the "Code") is to encourage all athletes, coaches, family members, spectators, chaperones, volunteers, members of the SOMO Board of Directors, and officials participating in a SOMO-sponsored activity ("Participants") to conduct themselves in a way that brings credit and honor to themselves and to SOMO. The Code also establishes a uniform procedure for resolving conduct infractions to ensure that all Participants are treated fairly.

Nothing in this Code will be deemed to restrict the individual freedom of a Participant in matters not affecting SOMO, their status as a SOMO Participant or the well being of the team. Participants will have complete freedom in choices of appearance, life-style, behavior, or speech while not traveling or participating in a SOMO-sponsored activity, provided their statements and actions do not adversely affect the name and reputation of SOMO.

All SOMO Participants will:

1. Conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times, showing respect for other Participants through words and actions.
2. Respect the spirit of fair-play and non-violence, and behave accordingly in competition.
3. Maintain dignity at the Opening, Closing, and Awards Ceremonies at all SOMO activities.
4. Be responsible for their personal belongings at all times and assist in maintaining the cleanliness, safety, and security of their assigned areas.
5. Refrain from smoking in competition or athlete training venues.
6. Fully abide by the rules of SOMO and the Games Management Team of any SOMO-sponsored activities.
7. Fully abide by the provisions of the Athlete Code of Conduct Pledge or Coach Code of Conduct Pledge, if applicable.

SOMO Participants understand that if they violate the Code, they will be subject to the SOMO disciplinary procedures, including being held financially and legally responsible for any damage that they purposely or knowingly cause.

ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE:

Sportsmanship

- I will practice good sportsmanship.
- I will act in ways that bring respect to me, my coaches, my team and Special Olympics.
- I will maintain dignity at the Opening, Closing, and Awards Ceremonies at all Special Olympics activities.
- I will not use curse words.
- I will not insult other persons.
- I will not fight with other athletes, coaches, volunteers or staff.

Training and Competition

- I will train regularly.
- I will learn and follow the rules of my sport.
- I will listen to my coach 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 preliminary competition just to get into an easier finals competition division.

Responsibility for My Actions

- I will not make inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal or sexual advances on others.
- I will not smoke in non-smoking areas.
- I will not drink alcohol or use illegal drugs at Special Olympics activities.
- I will not take drugs for the purpose of improving my performance.
- I will be responsible for my personal belongings at all times and will assist in maintaining the cleanliness, safety, and security of my team's assigned area.
- I will obey all laws and Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for my respective sport(s).

COACH CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE:

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 coach.

Ensure a Positive Experience

- I will ensure that for each athlete I coach, the time spend with Special Olympics is positive.
- I will respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each athlete.
- I will ensure each athlete competes in activities that challenge that athlete's potential and are appropriate to that athlete's ability.
- I will be fair, considerate and honest with athletes, using simple, clear language.
- I will ensure that accurate scores are provided for entry of an athlete into any event.
- I will instruct each athlete to perform to the best of the athlete's ability at all competitions (including preliminary events) in accordance with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.

Act Professionally and Take Responsibility for My Actions

- My language, manner, preparation, appearance 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), and encourage athletes to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I will not drink alcohol, smoke or take illegal drugs while representing Special Olympics at training sessions or during competition.
- I will refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes and others, including verbal, physical and emotional abuse.
- I will be responsible for supervising the conduct of athletes in my care at SOMO-sponsored activities.
- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care.
- I will be on hand and available at all times during any SOMO activity or event in which I have chosen to participate, and will remain responsible for the athletes in my care from the time of my arrival until the time of my departure.

Quality Service for the Athletes

- I will seek continual improvement through performance evaluation and ongoing coach education.
- I will be knowledgeable about the skills and techniques of the sport(s) I coach.
- I will provide a planned training program.
- I will keep copies of the medical, training, and competition records for each athlete I coach.
- I will teach and follow the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for the sport(s) I coach.

Health and Safety of Athletes

- I will ensure that the equipment and facilities at practice sites and SOMO-sponsored activities are safe to use.
- I will ensure that the equipment, rules, training and the environment area appropriate for the age and ability of the athletes I coach.
- I will review each athlete's medical form and be aware of any limitations on that athlete's participation noted on that form.
- I will encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required.
- I will maintain the same interest and support towards sick and injured athletes.
- I will allow further participation in training and competition only when appropriate.