

## PARENT AND SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

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Special Olympics is committed to the highest ideals of sport and expects all parents and spectators to honor Sport and Special Olympics. All Special Olympics parents and spectators should observe the following code:

- Remember athletes are participating for their enjoyment. Encourage participation, but do not force it.
- Applaud good performances and efforts from all individuals and teams. Congratulate all participants on their performance, regardless of the game's outcome.
- Focus on the athletes' effort and performance, rather than whether they win or lose.
- Encourage athletes to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Never ridicule or yell at people for making a mistake or losing the competition.
- Remember that athletes learn best by example. Appreciate good performance and skillful plays by all participants.
- Respect the decisions of officials and teach athletes to do the same.
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials, teachers and administrators. (Remember, without them there would be no participation).
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them, there would be no game.
- Encourage athletes and coaches to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.
- Swearing and/or inappropriate language will not be tolerated at Special Olympics Minnesota events.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Special Olympics Minnesota reserves the right to dismiss parents and/or spectators from any Special Olympics Minnesota event if the Parent and Spectator Code of Conduct (on reverse) is violated.

**1<sup>ST</sup> VIOLATION:** distribution of the Parent and Spectator Code of Conduct warning card.

**2<sup>ND</sup> VIOLATION:** removal from Special Olympics Minnesota event for the remainder of the day.

**3<sup>RD</sup> VIOLATION:** removal for remainder of the event and meeting with Special Olympics Minnesota staff to determine further action.