



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
MINNESOTA 2026

2026 Special Olympics USA Games Volunteer Code of Conduct

The 2026 Special Olympics USA Games (“Games”) Local Organizing Committee (“LOC”), Special Olympics, Inc. and Special Olympics U.S. Programs (herein referred to collectively as “Special Olympics”) are committed to the highest ideals of sport and expects all volunteers to respect all persons associated with the Games and to follow all Special Olympics rules. As such, all volunteers agree to abide by the following Code of Conduct:

Respect for Others

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all Games participants, which includes (but is not limited to) athletes, Unified Partners (defined as a person without an intellectual disability age 6 years and older who is involved in Unified Sports Recreation, Unified Sports Player Development and/or Unified Sports Competitive models at Games, competitions, Camp Shriver or other Unified Sports activities at any level (local, state, national, regional, or world) within the calendar year), coaches, delegation members, other volunteers, Games workforce, family members, media, sponsors, honored guests, attendees, and spectators (together, “Participants”).
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity origin, national origin, religion, ability, or any other characteristic, and will not willfully engage in discriminatory behaviors.
- I will always deliver excellent customer service, ensuring that all Participants have a positive, enjoyable experience.

Act Professionally and Take Responsibility for My Actions

- I will ensure my language, manners, punctuality, preparation, and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity, and professionalism always. I will encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I will not engage in any form of verbal, physical, psychological, emotional or sexual abuse, unwanted sexual advances, or harassing, bullying or hazing behavior in person, via telecommunications, or via any other form of electronic communication, including, but not limited to email, texting and social media. This includes the exchange or transmission of inappropriate language, derogatory comments or slurs, and/or inappropriate images of a sexual or violent nature.



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- Any person serving in a volunteer role is not a mandated reporter; however, the State of Minnesota encourages voluntary reporting. Minnesota law provides that any person may voluntarily report to the local welfare agency, agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report, police department, county sheriff, tribal social services agency, or tribal police department if the person knows, has reason to believe, or suspects a child is being or has been neglected or subjected to physical or sexual abuse. I will be alert to any form of abuse and if I suspect or believe any child or adult is experiencing physical, emotional or sexual abuse, or neglect or mistreatment, I will immediately report any incidents or concerns to Special Olympics leadership. If I believe the child or adult is in immediate danger and I do not believe there is time to speak with a member of Special Olympics leadership, I will contact local law enforcement or one of the other agencies listed above.
- I understand all telephonic and electronic communication between myself and any other Participant must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about Special Olympics activities and/or my volunteer role. If communicating with a minor or Special Olympics athlete, I will always make best efforts for a third party who is not a minor or Special Olympics athlete to be included on communications so that one-on-one communications are avoided whenever possible.
- I understand that any social media connections I make with others in the course of my volunteerism on my personal social media accounts are my choice and I am completely responsible for all such communications and who I choose to friend/follow on social media.
- I understand that any form of sexual or romantic activity between myself and any Participant is strictly prohibited during any phase of the Games.
- I will not drink or possess alcohol, smoke (tobacco products, e-cigarette devices), or possess or consume recreational cannabis or cannabis-based products or take illegal drugs while volunteering or participating in Special Olympics activities.
- I will respect and not misuse any equipment or property belonging to Special Olympics or that is provided to Special Olympics for its use, and/or the venues and services used by the Games.
- I will not take action(s) that foreseeably and unreasonably endangers a Participant.
- I will obey all applicable laws, rules, policies and regulations of all venues and locations where Games activities are taking place, as well as all Special Olympics rules.



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General Health and Safety of Participants

- I will provide for the general welfare, health and safety of all Participants.
- I will complete the mandatory Special Olympics training/s prior to engaging in my volunteer role or any Games activities.
- I will follow the established rules and guidelines of Special Olympics and the Games, which have been provided to me and are available at <https://resources.specialolympics.org/governance/special-olympics-general-rules>.
- I will follow the emergency/crisis communications procedures set forth by Special Olympics.

I understand that if I violate this Code of Conduct, I will be subject to a range of consequences up to and including dismissal from my volunteer role and being prohibited from participating in the Games and/or other Special Olympics activities.

If I am a volunteer who requires assistance understanding the terms of this Code of Conduct, I will have it explained to me by a family member, caregiver, or legal guardian prior to this form being signed by myself or my legal guardian, on my behalf, as I will be accountable for my behavior related to the Games.