



Family Experience Code of Conduct

The 2026 Special Olympics USA Games (“Games”) Local Organizing Committee (the “LOC”), Special Olympics, Inc. and Special Olympics U.S. Programs (herein referred to collectively as “Special Olympics”) expects all family members/caregivers to respect their state’s and other states’ delegation members and all persons associated with the Games, to display sportsmanship, and to follow all Special Olympics, Games, and delegation rules. As such, all family members/caregivers/legal guardians agree to abide by the following Code of Conduct:

SPORTSMANSHIP

- I will remember that athletes and Unified partners participate to achieve their personal best and have fun, and that the competition is for them.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct, including, but not limited to booing or taunting, using profane language and gestures, intimidating or fighting with any participant, official, coach, spectator, staff, or other family members.
- I will help ensure a member of my delegate’s family or support system reviews the applicable USA Games delegation member Code of Conduct with the delegate (e.g. athlete, minor Unified Partner) and any delegation specific standards of conduct, with them prior to the Games, to ensure they are aware of all conduct expectations.
- I will never encourage my delegate to “hold back” in any qualifying rounds just to get into an easier final heat/division.
- I will refrain from coaching athletes or other participants from the stands/sidelines during competition.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS

- I will act in a manner that brings respect to Special Olympics.
- I will display control, respect, dignity, and cooperation always. I will encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I will respect the rights, dignity, and well-being of all athletes, Unified partners, coaches, volunteers, staff, family members, and spectators, and will not willfully engage in discriminatory or disrespectful behaviors.
- I will treat everyone equally, fairly and with respect regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, ability, or any other characteristic.
- I understand that all forms of communication between me and any other Games participants or attendees must always be appropriate and respectful.
- I will not use inappropriate or offensive language, including swearing or insulting other individuals, in any form of communication.
- I will not take action(s) that endangers any participant.
- I understand any form of sexual activity with athletes, or any delegate who is a minor is strictly prohibited.
- 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, with anyone associated with Special Olympics. This includes the exchange or transmission of inappropriate language, derogatory comments or slurs, and/or inappropriate images of a sexual or violent nature.
- I understand that any social media connections I make with individuals associated with the Games, including other family members/caregivers, 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 all telephonic and electronic communications between myself, and any delegation member must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about Games activities. I will always make the best efforts for a third party to be included in communications so that one-on-one



communications are avoided whenever possible (except for direct personal communication with my child/guardian).

- I will inform Special Olympics leadership in a timely manner should I be subject to inappropriate behavior from anyone in association with Special Olympics and/or if I become aware of such behavior occurring amongst others.
- I understand that I play a role and have a responsibility to assist Special Olympics in providing for the health and safety of all delegates, by reporting any unsafe environment or suspicious behavior to Special Olympics leadership.
- I will be honest and forthcoming throughout the duration of my delegate's Games experience (from application and selection processes, Games lead-up, training camp(s) – if applicable, the Games, and any post-Games related activities) regarding any behavioral or medical needs or considerations they may have, and potential needed supports that should be known by my state Program far in advance of the Games, to help ensure the safety, health, and experience of all delegation members.
- I will respect the rules and policies in place at activities and/or venues at all times.
- 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 at Games competition venues.
- I understand that my delegate is always under the supervision and care of my state delegation while at and traveling to/from the Games. I may not take my delegate away from the delegation at any time without the express and prior written permission of Special Olympics and understand this option may not be offered by my delegation (please consult your state Special Olympics Program for process). Special Olympics reserves the right to deny any request for a delegation member to be temporarily released from the delegation, based on the obligations of the delegate/delegation and/or for health and safety reasons.
- I will not attempt to access restricted areas or functions of the Games events and venues that I do not have authorized access to (e.g., housing, dining, competition/training venues, locker rooms, delegation only transportation, ceremonies, special events, etc.)
- I acknowledge that neither the Games nor Special Olympics is responsible for expenses associated with my attendance of the Games and/or related events.
- I will obey all posted rules and applicable laws while attending the Games. It is not Special Olympics' responsibility to inform me of said laws, nor obligation to provide any assistance to me in the event I violate any applicable laws or statutes.
- I will abide by the information sharing and communications processes set forth by Special Olympics.

If I violate this Code of Conduct, I will be subject to a range of consequences, up to and including being barred from the Games activities, revocation of my Games credentials, denial of future USA or World Games credentials, as well as potential sanctions from my state Program.