



2023 State Summer Games
May 19th-21st, 2023
Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA

Deadlines & Due Dates

All Entries and Meal Counts: **04/14/2023 by 4:30 PM**

Athlete Packets (*includes the athlete medical form*): **4/14/2023 by 4:30 PM**

All Coach Certification Requirements: **04/14/2023 by 4:30 PM**

Quota Process

Quota Request process will begin on Wednesday, March 22nd. Programs will be notified via email when this process opens. Please request the total amount of delegates (athletes, coaches, Unified Partners) that you want attending the games. The quota request process will close Wednesday, April 5th. Quota decisions will be made by Friday, April 7th and you will be notified how much quota your program has been given.

Registration Fees

Delegates are **all** qualified athletes, Unified Partners, certified coaches, and any other credentialed representative from a Local Training Program, school or other agency. The registration fee for 2023 State Summer Games is **\$36 per delegate**.

For Local Training Programs who are included in SOLA's centralized accounting program, registration fees will be automatically applied to your program's budget once you submit your registrations for State Summer Games. It is the LTP coordinator's responsibility to ensure that funds are available or that the state office has approved a plan for fundraising to cover registration fees.

Schools and other agencies who are not a part of SOLA's centralized accounting program are required to submit to the SOLA state office all required fees no later than the registration deadline in the form of a check, or contact the office for an alternate payment method. Schools and agencies whose fees are being covered by a Local Training Program should coordinate this prior to the registration deadline.

If fees are not paid in full by the deadline, the entire delegation may be scratched from games. If a delegation scratches anyone after the registration due date, no money will be reimbursed. In the case where fees are not paid by the registration deadline, the original fees (fees for the original number of delegates) are still to be paid. In other words, if registrations are turned in with no fees and a delegation has scratches before fees are paid, original payment obligation cannot be decreased due to scratches.

NO PARTIAL PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED

No adjustments will be made for delegates who do not attend. Registration fees cover costs associated with the games including housing, meals, facility charges, insurance, games management, general management and administrative costs associated with the planning and execution of a state-level event.

Late Fees: - **All registrations are due in the State Office no later than 4:30pm on the deadline date and must have been entered into the appropriate entry form.** Registrations received in the State Office up to 7 days after the deadline will be accepted as follows: For paperwork that is received after the deadline date or up to 7 days after the deadline date, a \$100 late fee will be assessed. After 7 days, **NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Delegations failing to pay the \$100 late assessment fee by deadline date will be unable to attend the State Summer Games.

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GET IN ALL PAPERWORK BY THE DEADLINE FOR ALL STATE GAMES. *** PLEASE NOTE: THIS POLICY DOES NOT APPLY TO THE ELIGIBILITY DATE FOR MEDICAL FORMS AND PARTNER FORMS. THESE FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN BY THE ELIGIBILITY DEADLINE FOR ALL STATE GAMES***

Allowed and Non-Allowed Expenses

- SOLA will be providing registered athletes, unified partners, and coaches with the following meals:
 - Friday Dinner
 - Saturday Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
 - Sunday Breakfast and Lunch.
- Only **registered delegates** will be able to participate in meal service.
- **Each LTP or agency must provide us with a meal count for their program. This count is due on 04/14/2023.**
- Pre-approved transportation will be reimbursed. For programs requiring bus transportation, contracts must be submitted to the state office for prior approval. Rental cars will not be allowed for any areas which use bus transportation. Please remember that 15-passenger vans are not allowed.

Individual Roles & Requirements at State Events

- ➤ **Athlete** = A Special Olympics Athlete competing in the state event. All Athletes MUST have an active Doctor signed medical form on file with SOLA by the eligibility/paperwork deadline in order to compete at any state event. The medical expiration date (expires every three years) must not expire before or during the date of the state event.
- ➤ **Unified Partner** = A Unified Partner, with a complete Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile form on file, competing in the state event. Any Unified Partner must complete the Special Olympics Louisiana Class-A Volunteer trainings on SOLA's website which includes completion of the general orientation, Online Protective Behaviors Course, and concussion awareness course. Unified Partners participating in state events are not to be held responsible or liable for the Athletes. The ultimate responsibility and liability belongs to the Head of Delegation and coaches for all Athletes and Unified Partners.
- ➤ **Head of Delegation** = Individual that has completed the Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile form, screened by Special Olympics Louisiana via the Class-A Volunteer Portal on SOLA's website, which includes completion of the online protective behaviors course, general orientation, and concussion awareness course. The Head of Delegation is responsible for all Athletes and Unified Partners competing in the state event.
- ➤ **Coach(es)** = Individual responsible for team or individual sports athletes competing in the state event that has completed the Class-A Volunteer Registration, been screened by Special Olympics Louisiana, completed the online protective behaviors course, general orientation, and completed the concussion awareness course.
- ➤ **Chaperone(s) & Extra people not in quota but part of the delegation** = Individual responsible for athletes competing in the state event that has completed the Class-A Volunteer Registration, been screened by Special Olympics Louisiana, completed the online protective behaviors course, general orientation, and completed the concussion awareness course.

Registration Qualifications

Athletes & Alternates:

- Qualifying athletes will be given the opportunity to compete against their peers, with similar skill levels.
- **Athletics (Track & Field)** - There will be no prelims in any events this year. The honest effort rule will be strictly enforced. Please work to submit accurate times and distances. Each unified sports relay team shall consist of two athletes and two partners. Runners on a relay team may be assigned to run in any order. Athletes and partners should be of similar age and ability level. Please see the Track and Field events being offered at State Summer Games contained in this document. Athletes may participate in 3 events within their respective category. If there are any other official events you feel should be offered please contact Max Fernandez at mfernandez@laso.org to discuss. These events must be an official event offered by Special Olympics.
- **Bocce**- Bocce athletes will be limited to two events: Singles and Doubles. If you have athletes that are competing in bocce doubles, please register an alternate bocce player. If one of the team members get injured or scratches prior to the corrections deadline, then you will have a replacement. Singles will play on Saturday and Doubles on Sunday.
- **Golf**- Golf will take place at Oak Knoll Country club in Hammond. Golf will take place Friday morning with plans to tee off at 8:00am. Our golf competition will be made up of Alternate Shot (9 Holes and 18 Holes) Unified Teams and a skill competition. Golf athletes can participate in a 2nd sport.
- **Unified Volleyball**- Volleyball will be offered at State Summer Games. We will offer both individual skills and unified team competition. Please note on the entry form which option you choose. If you choose unified team competition, please list the team name.
- **Tennis**- We will be offering Singles and Unified Doubles this year. Singles will play on Saturday and Doubles on Sunday.
- Heads of Delegation are to use the advancement procedure in order to fill their program/agency quota allotment. Make sure to submit **alternates** as well in case an athlete has to be scratched at the last minute.

- **Healthy Athlete Program-** Please encourage athletes and families to visit our Health Promotion, Special Smiles, Fun Fitness, Strong Minds and Opening Eyes screenings. These are free and available to athletes to come each time they are offered.
- Alternates must be submitted with your official entries in order for them to be activated at a later date. All deadlines and documentation requirements apply to alternates as well. Alternates must be clearly marked in the entry submission.
- No alternates may be used if they were not submitted using the advancement procedure. *Please see the advancement procedures [here](#).*
- When sending in entries, please be sure to assign a “Supervised By” person to each athlete.
- Please make sure that your area has an accurate athlete to coach ratio. 5:1 athlete to Certified Coach ratio, and a 1:1 athlete to coach ratio for athletes that use a wheel chair. **The program/agency allotment for coaches was determined by the required ratio.**
- All participating athletes must have an accurate and current Athlete Packet. *The Athlete packet can be found on our website [here](#).*
- Any athlete that does not have an Athlete Packet before that deadline will be scratched and replaced by an alternate. **THERE WILL BE NO DATE EXTENSIONS ON THE DUE DATE FOR ATHLETE PACKETS AND COACH CERTIFICATIONS. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.** Please make arrangements to get this required information ASAP!

Coaches and Unified Partners

- All participating coaches must be Level 1 coaches in order to participate at any state competition. Volunteer Delegate is no longer a recognized role at Special Olympics Louisiana.
- All Class-A Volunteers (Coaches and Unified Partners) must have the appropriate certifications by the deadlines or they will be scratched.
- All coaches must have a copy of each athlete’s medical page of the Athlete Packet for the athlete they are supervising. This is a requirement of being a coach in Special Olympics Louisiana. Please refer to the [coaches resource](#) page with any questions in regards to a Special Olympics coach’s responsibilities and the penalties that may be enforced if there is failure to adhere them.
- Delegations are only allowed to register coaches in accordance to the ratio for their program/agency allotment. Any excess coaches over the ratio will not be allowed. All former participants that had the role of “Volunteer Delegate” must now complete the necessary steps to become certified coaches in order to participate as a Class A volunteer at state competitions.

Game Day Registration Procedures

- Each delegation will be responsible for assigning a Delegation Leader that must report their delegations scratches to the registration table.
- Please review all [coaching resources](#), including ALL SOLA Codes of Conduct, before arrival.

Housing and Check-In Information

- Roughly two weeks prior to State Summer Games, each LTP leader/agency leader will be emailed a floor plan that must be completed and returned to Southeastern Louisiana University. Upon arrival during check-in LTP leaders/agency leaders will receive their dorm keys via Southeastern Louisiana University.
- Participating delegates must bring their own linens for the dorms.
- Check in will take place on Friday May 19th at the Pennington Center from 11am-4pm. Delegations must check into to receive badges and housing information.
- Dinner will follow check in, 4pm-6pm, with opening ceremonies to follow.
- Please contact Max Fernandez, mfernandez@laso.org with any questions concerning check in procedures.

Venues

All venues will be on Southeastern Louisiana University's campus

Opening Ceremony

Strawberry Stadium

Ned McGehee Dr

Hammond, LA 7040

Athletics

SLU Track Complex

500 West University Avenue

Hammond, LA 70402

Softball Throw (Athletics Field Event)

SLU Pennington Field

1350 N General Pershing St,

Hammond, LA 70401

Bocce

SLU Football Practice Field

Western Avenue

Hammond, LA 70403

Golf

Oak Knoll Country Club

45246 Country Club Rd.

Hammond, LA. 70401

Volleyball

Pennington Center

1350 N General Pershing St.

Hammond, LA. 70401

Healthy Athletes

Kinesiology and Health Studies Building

Mane St.

Hammond, LA 70401

State Games Event Listings	
Athletics	(Track & Field)
Category 1	Category 3
100M Wheelchair Race	100M Run
200M Wheelchair Race	200M Run
400M Wheelchair Race	400M Run
Wheelchair Shotput	Relay 4x100 (Traditional & Unified)
25M Assisted Walk	Category 4
25M Walk	400M Run
25M Run	800M Run
50M Assisted Walk	Relay 4x100 (Traditional & Unified)
50M Walk	
50M Run	
100M Walk	
Category 2	
400M Walk	
800M Walk	
Relay 4x100 (Traditional & Unified)	
Field Events	Categories
Tennis Ball Throw	1
Softball Throw	1,2,3,4
Wheelchair Shotput	1
Shot Put	2 and 3
Mini Jav	2,3, and 4
Standing Long Jump	1,2,and 3
Running Long Jump	3 and 4
Bocce	Tennis
Singles	Lvl 1:Individual Skills
Doubles	Lvl 2:Singles 42' Red Ball
	Lvl 3:Singles 60' Orange Ball
	Lvl 4:Singles 78' Green Ball with Yellow Dot
	Lvl 5:Singles 78' Yellow Ball
	Unified Doubles
Golf	Volleyball
Alternate Shot Unified Play	Unified Team Competition
Skills Competition	Skills Competition

Special Olympics Louisiana Supervision Policy

All Accredited Special Olympics Louisiana Programs are responsible for the supervision of all registered delegates 24/7 at all Special Olympics Louisiana events and activities. This includes all training sessions, local games, area games, invitational, state games, USA and World Games. During state events, the registered Head of Delegation and registered Coaches, Assistant Coaches and any chaperones are responsible for 24/7 supervision of all registered Athletes and Unified Partners from departure from home until returning home after the conclusion of the state event. Athletes and Unified Partners should be supervised during all festivities during the state event, including hotel/dorm nights the delegation stays. Special Olympics Louisiana strives to provide the safest environment at all events and activities for all registered participants.

Mandatory Screening

All individuals (18 and over) responsible for athletes overnight, or traveling with an agency in any capacity, must clear a background screening before attending any state event. No person under the age of 18 will be screened. If the "minor" is a Unified Partner, he or she must have a completed Class-A volunteer training on file with Special Olympics Louisiana by the eligibility deadline. Any "minor" attending state competitions – as a Unified Partner -- MAY NOT be responsible for athletes overnight. An individual, over the age of 18, that has a clear background screening before attending state competitions, must be responsible for the athletes overnight in the hotel / dorm rooms.

COVID-19 Guidance

Special Olympics has updating its COVID-19 guidance based on the latest information from the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other health authorities. This guidance may reflect a greater degree of caution due to the increased potential of harmful health outcomes of COVID-19 for people with intellectual disabilities (ID), and to protect all participants and stakeholders in our movement. **Special Olympics strongly recommends and encourages all participants to be fully COVID-19 vaccinated and UpToDate with COVID-19 vaccine boosters.** At all times, SOLA will follow guidelines established by local, state and national governments regarding health, safety and rules.

Prohibition on Charging Fees

Article 7, Section 7.02 of the Special Olympics, Inc. General Rules states the following concerning the charging of fees for athletes or their families: "No Accredited Program may require Special Olympics athletes or their families to pay or promise to pay any type of admission, registration, training, participation, or competition fee, or any other fee or charge of any type as a condition for admission to any Special Olympics event of activity, or as a fee for the athletes' participation in any Special Olympics or competition (collectively, "Prohibited Fees"). Registration Fees for state competitions are the responsibility of the local program or agency, and may not be levied against any other individual or family.

Curfews & Supervision of Athletes

Athletes & Coaches should be in rooms & quiet by curfew (10:00 pm). Assistant Coaches / Coaches / Chaperones are responsible for the conduct of their athletes AT ALL TIMES. Any athlete(s) found unsupervised, or who are engaged in disruptive behavior can be disqualified from any state event. Please ensure the safety of your athletes and help provide an enjoyable weekend by being responsible for their whereabouts.

Accident Insurance

Athletes, Coaches, and Assistant Coaches that are part of the official delegation are covered by accident insurance while attending any state competition. Coverage is secondary to any primary coverage the individual has. If the individual has no coverage, the insurance becomes the primary coverage up to \$5,000. This applies ONLY to accidents (ear aches, stomach aches, etc. are not covered). Accident Insurance forms should be obtained from the state office.

Alcohol, Illegal Drugs

Violation of these regulations will be cause for immediate expulsion from any state competition. The possession or use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs by athletes, coaches, asst. coaches, and Head of Delegations is not permitted during an Special Olympics event or activity.

No Swimming Policy

Please make sure that your coaches and assistant coaches enforce the policy of NO recreational swimming at Special Olympics Events. This includes pools, spas, hot tubs, beaches, lakes, etc.

SOLA Safe Athlete Housing Policy

Special Olympics is an athlete-centered movement that welcomes athletes with intellectual disabilities of all abilities to participate in sports training and competition. Special Olympics is open to persons with intellectual disabilities age eight and older and offers a Young Athletes program for individuals with intellectual disabilities under the age of eight. The health and safety of all Special Olympics participants is of paramount importance to Special Olympics. Participants should feel that every Special Olympics event is a safe and positive experience and should not be fearful of other athletes, coaches or volunteers. Arranging housing for overnight events involves the consideration of a variety of factors, including the varying abilities, ages and behaviors of athletes, the availability of housing and the costs associated with overnight accommodations. The Safe Athlete Housing Policy assures that all athletes are housed in a safe environment at all times.

ROOMING ASSIGNMENTS

Gender – Athletes and volunteers may not share a room with an athlete or volunteer of the opposite sex, with the following exceptions:

- 1.) Married athletes who are both attending the event as members of a registered delegation. This exception does not apply to the spouse of an athlete who is not participating in the event, but attending solely as a spectator.
- 2.) Married volunteers who are both attending the event as members of a registered delegation. This exception does not apply if one of the volunteers is required to share a room with an athlete (other than the married couple's child), if this scenario will create a situation whereby an athlete is housed with a volunteer of the opposite sex.
- 3.) Family members of the opposite sex who serve as a personal chaperone for the related athlete.
- 4.) Housing in a facility that has multiple private rooms in addition to living space (such as a condominium or dormitory). Both males and females may be assigned to one condominium, if necessary, but private rooms may not be shared by individuals of the opposite sex. Chaperones must also be housed in the condominium and the chaperone/athlete ratio (as outlined in the supervision section of the policy) must be maintained.
- 5.) Use of barracks or other facility (such as a gym) where a large number of individuals are assigned to one room. Athletes and volunteers must be separated as much as possible by gender (for example, females on one side of the gym and males on the other side).
- 6.) Transgender or gender-diverse participants will be provided housing accommodations based on their gender identity, with a recognition that an athlete who needs extra privacy/supervision should be accommodated whenever possible and with (1) the non-transgender roommate(s) and their parents/guardians are notified and given the opportunity to request alternate accommodations, and (2) bed sharing is not required. If shared housing is not an option, best efforts will be made for the transgender or gender-diverse participant to be accommodated with a room to him/herself or with his/her family/support system in compliance with SOLA's additional housing and volunteer screening policies.

SUPERVISION

The chaperone/athlete ratio of at least one properly registered chaperone to every four/five must be maintained at all times. Proper supervision can be maintained without having a chaperone present in the room at all times. All chaperones/supervisory registered delegates and bus drivers must be screened in accordance with the Special Olympics US Volunteer Screening Policy. The following list includes suggestions for providing proper supervision.

Hotels – Whenever possible, reserve connecting rooms so that chaperones have direct access to the athletes' room(s). If connecting rooms are not available and the chaperone is in a room separate from the athletes for which he/she is responsible:

- Ensure that the chaperone has a key to the athletes' room(s)
- Ensure that the athletes know how to reach the chaperone at all times
- Consider using hall monitors

Condo/Dorm (or other facility with multiple private rooms) – Whenever possible, leave the doors to private rooms open so that chaperones can monitor each room.

Barracks (or other facility with a large number of beds in one room) – Whenever possible, chaperones should be assigned to a location in close proximity to the athletes he/she is supervising.

YOUNG ATHLETES

Young Athletes events that involve overnight activities require increased supervision and therefore, Young Athletes participants must be accompanied by a properly registered and screened parent, guardian or an individual designated by a parent or guardian at all overnight activities. Rooming assignments for Young Athletes should be separate from the remainder of the delegation, whenever possible (for example, separate hotel rooms).

SOLA Hotel/Dorm/Venue Emergency Policy

In the case of an emergency please respond accordingly. In the case of a fire/false alarm please make sure your entire delegation calmly vacates the building and that they are all accounted for. Remember to take your keys and your housing list. (The Head of Delegation should make a final sweep of the housing/building counting your athletes/coaches and make sure you have everyone when exiting or re-entering). In the case of bad weather (tornado, flooding) please make sure your entire delegation is in a secure and safe environment until the weather has cleared. Make sure that each athlete/coach in your delegation is accounted for after the weather has cleared. Remember to take your keys. In the case of a missing member of your delegation (athlete, coach, family member) please contact the appropriate SOLA Staff as soon as possible. Please calmly provide a detailed description of the situation and adhere to the SOLA Crisis Plan regarding the dissemination of information.

Failing to Report Scratches & Substitutions at State Competitions

It is the responsibility of the Head of Delegation for each program/agency to report any scratches at the time of registration if not sooner. Substitutions are only allowed from registered alternates. NO substitutions are allowed after registration is over for state games.

Commercial Messaging on Athlete Uniforms and Competition Numbers

In order to avoid commercial exploitation of persons with intellectual disabilities at any Special Olympics competition, no uniforms, and no bibs or other signs bearing competition numbers, which are worn by Special Olympics athletes while competing or during any opening, closing, or award ceremonies of any competition may have commercial names or commercial messages. The only commercial markings which may be displayed on athletes' and coaches uniforms during competitions and opening and closing ceremonies are the normal commercial markings of the manufacturer. For example, a manufacturer logo (Nike, Under Armor, etc) on a shoe, shirt, shorts, etc..

Commercial Markings on Other Athlete Apparel or Accessories

Special Olympics athletes who are not engaged in competition or and not included in opening/closing ceremonies may wear, carry or use at competition venues other than the sites of competition (such as at training or practice sessions) clothing and/or non-apparel items which are not part of their sports equipment (such as tote bags), which contain small and attractively designed identifications of corporate or organizational sponsors.

Displays of Commercial Messages by Volunteers

Volunteers may wear clothing which bears small and attractively designed names or logos identifying corporate or organizational sponsors while attending Games competitions, so long as those displays do not exceed an area of six square inches or its metric equivalent.

Displays of Commercial Messages by Sports Officials

Sports officials may not wear, carry or use clothing or other apparel items which contain the names or logos of corporate or organizational sponsors (except for the normal commercial markings permitted under subsection (a) above) during the opening or closing ceremonies of any Games, at the sites of any Games competition or demonstration, or while officiating at any Games competition or demonstration. At other times, or at Games venues other than the sites of opening and closing ceremonies, competitions or demonstrations (such as at the sites of training and practice sessions), officials may wear, carry or use clothing or other items which contain sponsors' names or logos if those displays comply with those permitted to be displayed by volunteers.

Mandatory Reporting Requirements

Mandatory reporting requirements in Louisiana mandate that coaches, trainers, and other positions entrusted supervision report cases where they suspect or have reason to suspect abuse. A report is required when a reporter has cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare is endangered as a result of abuse or neglect. Contact SOLA if you need additional information on this requirement.

Athlete & Unified Partner Code of Conduct

As a Special Olympics athlete or Unified Partner, I agree to the following:

SPORTSMANSHIP AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS

- I will always practice good sportsmanship, including during, before and after practice and competition.
- I will act in ways that bring respect to me, my coaches, my team, and Special Olympics.
- I will not use inappropriate or offensive language, including swearing or insulting other individuals, in any form of communication.
- I will not fight with other athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, staff, family members or spectators.
- I will respect the rights and dignity of all athletes, Unified partners, coaches, volunteers, staff, family members, and spectators in Special Olympics, and will not willfully engage in discriminatory behaviors.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, ability, or any other characteristic.

TRAINING AND COMPETITION

- I will train regularly.
- I will learn and follow the rules of my sport.
- I will listen to my coaches 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 preliminaries just to get into an easier final heat/division.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS

- I will not engage in any form of verbal, physical, psychological, emotional or sexual abuse, sexual advances or activity, or harassing, bullying or hazing behavior in person or via any form of communication, including texting and social media.
- I will tell my Special Olympics Program leadership immediately if I experience bullying or abusive behavior while participating in Special Olympics activities and/or if I become aware of such behavior occurring between other participants.
- I will ensure I am aware of any applicable law(s) which classifies me as a mandatory reporter. I am aware that I am obligated to report abuse or suspected abuse, regardless of whether laws omit me as a mandatory reporter. I will consult with my Special Olympics Program leadership for guidance, as needed.
- I understand all telephone and electronic communications between myself and any Special Olympics participant must be appropriate and respectful.
- I will not send or share inappropriate images via email, text, or social media.
- I understand that any social media connections I make with other Special Olympics participants 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 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 representing Special Olympics or participating in Special Olympics activities.
- I will not take drugs for the purpose of improving my performance.
- I will respect and not misuse any equipment or property belonging to Special Olympics or that is provided to Special Olympics for its use.
- I will obey all laws where I am participating, and Special Olympics rules.

I understand that if I violate this Code of Conduct, I will be subject to a range of consequences up to and including being prohibited from participating in Special Olympics.

Coaches Code of Conduct

As a Special Olympics coach, I agree to the following:

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, coaches, other volunteers, friends, and spectators in Special Olympics, and will not willfully engage in discriminatory behaviors.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity origin, national origin, religion, or ability, or any other characteristic.
- 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 spent with Special Olympics is a positive experience.
- I will respect the talent, developmental stage, and goals of each athlete.
- I will ensure each athlete competes in events that challenge that athlete's potential and are appropriate to that athlete's ability.
- I will be fair, considerate, and honest with athletes and communicate 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 preliminaries and final heats in accordance with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.

ACT PROFESSIONALLY AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS

- I will ensure my language, manner, punctuality, preparation, and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity, and professionalism at all times. I will encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities.
- 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 representing Special Olympics or participating in Special Olympics activities.
- I will not engage in any form of verbal, physical, psychological, emotional or sexual abuse, sexual advances or activity, or harassing, bullying or hazing behavior in person, via telecommunications, or via any other form of electronic communication, including, but not limited to 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. I will also inform my Special Olympics Program leadership immediately should I be subject to such behavior or abuse from another participant and/or if I become aware of such behavior occurring amongst other participants.
- I understand all telephonic and electronic communications between myself and any other participant must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team-related activities, and I will always make best efforts for a third party to be included on communications so that one-one-one communications are avoided whenever possible.
- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care and will immediately report any incidents or concerns to my Special Olympics Program leadership.
- I will ensure I am aware of any applicable law(s) which classifies me as a mandatory reporter. I am aware that I am obligated to report abuse or suspected abuse, regardless of whether laws omit me as a mandatory reporter. I will consult with my Special Olympics Program leadership for guidance, as needed.
- I will abide by the Special Olympics policy on the prohibition of coaches dating athletes.
- I will abide by the information sharing/communications processes set forth by my local Special Olympics Program.
- I will respect and not misuse any equipment or property belonging to Special Olympics or that is provided to Special Olympics for its use.
- I will not take action(s) outside of my assigned volunteer role, or outside the direction of my Special Olympics Program, that endangers a participant.
- I will obey all laws where I am participating, and Special Olympics rules.

QUALITY SERVICE TO THE ATHLETES

- I will seek continual improvement through performance evaluation and ongoing coach education.
- I will keep current with all required trainings and required forms pertaining to my role.
- I will be knowledgeable about and follow the Sports Rules and skills of the sport(s) I coach.
- I will provide athletes/teams with plans to support their increased health, fitness and sport development.
- I will be aware of any unique medical, training, or competition needs of each athlete I coach.
- I will exercise extreme caution, discretion and care with any documents, material, or devices containing confidential information.

GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ATHLETES

- I will ensure that the equipment and facilities are safe to use.
- I will ensure that the equipment, rules, trainings, and environment are appropriate for the age and ability of the athletes.
- 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 follow Special Olympics' concussion protocol.
- I will allow further participation in training and competition only when safe for the athlete and/or the other participants.
- I will follow the emergency / crisis communications procedures set forth by my Special Olympics Program.

I understand that if I violate this Code of Conduct, I will be subject to a range of consequences up to and including being prohibited from participating in Special Olympics.

Volunteer Code of Conduct

As a Special Olympics volunteer, I agree to the following:

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, Unified partners, coaches, other volunteers, and spectators in Special Olympics, and will not willfully engage in discriminatory behaviors.
- I will treat everyone equally regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity origin, national origin, religion, or ability, or any other characteristic.
- I will be a positive role model for all participants.

ACT PROFESSIONALLY AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS

- I will ensure my language, manner, punctuality, preparation, and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity, and professionalism at all times. I will encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I will not engage in any form of verbal, physical, psychological, emotional or sexual abuse, sexual advances or activity, or harassing, bullying or hazing behavior in person, via telecommunications, or via any other form of electronic communication, including, but not limited to 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.
- I understand all telephonic and electronic communications between myself and any other participant must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about Special Olympics activities, and I will always make best efforts for a third party to be included on communications so that one-one-one communications are avoided whenever possible.
- I will inform my Special Olympics Program leadership immediately should I be subject to such behavior or abuse from another participant and/or if I become aware of such behavior occurring amongst others.
- I will be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed toward athletes in my care and will immediately report any incidents or concerns to my Special Olympics Program leadership.
- I will ensure I am aware of any applicable law(s) which classifies me as a mandatory reporter. I am aware that I am obligated to report abuse or suspected abuse, regardless of whether laws omit me as a mandatory reporter. I will consult with my Special Olympics Program leadership for guidance, as needed.
- I will abide by the Special Olympics policy on the prohibition of volunteers dating athletes.
- 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 representing Special Olympics 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.
- I will not take action(s) outside of my assigned volunteer role, or outside the direction of my Special Olympics Program, that endangers a participant.
- I will obey all laws where I am participating, and Special Olympics rules.

GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ATHLETES

- I will provide for the general welfare, health and safety of all Special Olympics participants and fellow volunteers.
- I will follow the established rules and guidelines of Special Olympics and/or any agency involved with Special Olympics.
- I will follow the emergency/crisis communications procedures set forth by my Special Olympics Program.
- I will exercise extreme caution, discretion and care with any documents, materials, or devices, containing confidential information.

I understand that if I violate this Code of Conduct, I will be subject to a range of consequences up to and including being prohibited from participating in Special Olympics.

General Code of Conduct for Family Members and Spectators of Special Olympics

As a family member and/or spectator of Special Olympics, I agree to the following:

- I will remember that athletes and Unified partners participate to have fun and that the competition is for them.
- I will ensure my language, manner, and presentation will demonstrate high standards.
- I will display control, respect, dignity, and cooperation at all times. I will encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct, such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language and gestures, with any participant, official, coach, or family member.
- I will refrain from coaching athletes or other participants from the stands/sidelines during competitions and practices.
- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants and spectators in Special Olympics, and will not willfully engage in discriminatory behaviors.

I will treat everyone equally regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity origin, national origin, religion, or ability, or any other characteristic.

- I will respect the rules and policies in place at the activity, event and/or venue at all times.
- I will abide by the information sharing/communications processes set forth by my local Special Olympics Program.
- I understand that I play a vital role and have a responsibility to assist Special Olympics in providing for the health and safety of all athletes, by reporting any unsafe environment or suspicious behavior to my Special Olympics Program leadership.
- 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 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.
- I understand all telephonic and electronic communications between myself and any other participant (especially athletes) must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about Special Olympics activities, and I will always make best efforts for a third party to be included on communications so that one-one-one communications are avoided whenever possible.
- I will also inform my Special Olympics Program leadership immediately should I be subject to such behavior or abuse from another participant and/or if I become aware of such behavior occurring amongst others.
- I will ensure I am aware of any applicable law(s) which classifies me as a mandatory reporter. I am aware that I am obligated to report abuse or suspected abuse, regardless of whether laws omit me as a mandatory reporter. I will consult with my Special Olympics Program leadership for guidance, as needed.
- I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of all participants.
- 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 attending 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.

I understand that if I violate this Code of Conduct, I will be subject to a range of consequences up to and including being prohibited from participating in Special Olympics activities.