Code of Conduct

As a Special Olympics volunteer, you agree that while serving as a volunteer, you will:

**Fulfill the responsibility of your assignment:**
- Carry out all aspects of your assignment.
- Attend all required meetings.
- Notify the volunteer coordinator if you cannot complete an assignment.

**Set an example for the athletes:**
- Refrain from smoking, consuming alcohol or using profanity when acting as a volunteer.
- Be discreet in your personal relationships with the athlete and avoid any behavior which may be misunderstood or misinterpreted.

**Demonstrate good sportsmanship:**
- Support the decisions of referees, judges and committees, and use proper dissent processes.
- Be respectful during ceremonies and help your athletes be the same.
- Praise the athletes for their efforts and encourage them to be happy for the success of other athletes.

**Be continually vigilant and cognizant of the safety of the athlete:**
- Never leave an athlete unchaperoned.
- Report anything you observe, either in the physical environment or an Individual’s behavior, which you feel may cause potential harm.

**Be loyal to your commitment and to Special Olympics:**
- Look for constructive ways to overcome obstacles.

**Take advantage of the opportunities Special Olympics offers you:**
- Be open to new ideas and new ways of doing things.
- Become an active participant by extending your involvement to other roles of leadership and training.
- Delight in the change that your involvement makes in the life of someone you know and in the lives of those you never meet.

As a volunteer in any capacity, you represent Special Olympics Florida to the participants, the families, the general public and the media. No matter what your volunteer assignment, it is critical that you conduct yourself in a professional manner. If your job requires a credential or identification badge, be sure to wear it all times.

Talk to the athletes as you would anyone else. Ask them to repeat themselves if necessary and maintain eye contact. Those competing in sports and attending events are referred to as “ATHLETES” at all times.

Encourage appropriate behavior. Behavior not appropriate among persons without disabilities is not appropriate among persons with disabilities.

Some athletes enjoy hugs while others do not. Take your cue from them and set your own comfort zone. All participation deserves recognition regardless of place or finish.

Please do not try to “train” or “coach” the athletes. They have been working with their coaches for weeks for this event and are looking to them for guidance.

Photographs and video recordings are taken at each event. By signing in for your shift, you authorize Special Olympics Florida to use your image and likeness in promotional materials.