

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONTARIO

8.3.3 - ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

An athlete shall:

- Adhere to the ***Athlete Rights and Responsibilities***
- Maintain high standards of conduct, which includes self-control and responsible behaviour. An athlete should consider the well being of others and display courtesy and good manners.
- Avoid profane or abusive language and disruptive behaviour including behaviour that is dangerous to self and/or others including acts of violence, harassment, physical or sexual abuse.
- Abide by the rules of competition especially the Special Olympics Ontario Official Sports Rules.
- Abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and/or illegal substances when participating in any Special Olympics sponsored or sanctioned activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, training/practice sessions and competition events.
- Abstain from all illegal activity.
- Honour the Special Olympics Oath.

As a coach, please make every effort to have your athletes aware of their *Athlete Code of Conduct and Rights and Responsibilities*

Code of Conduct Infractions

Special Olympics Ontario has sole and absolute discretion as to any disciplinary actions to be taken if a person violates the Athlete Code of Conduct. Any action taken is predicated with the good faith belief of Special Olympics Ontario that the disciplinary action is appropriate. Any disciplinary action that is taken can be appealed as per the Disciplinary and Corrective Action Policy and Procedures provided by the Provincial Office.

The following disciplinary actions may be taken:

- Issue a warning;
- Place the individual on probation;
- Suspension from further participation in any Special Olympics programs or activities;
or,
- Expulsion from further participation in any Special Olympics programs or activities.

Immediate Suspension

A person may be subject to immediate disciplinary action, including suspension, for conduct which, in the sole and absolute discretion of Special Olympics, is so inherently harmful as to warrant immediate action. Immediate disciplinary action, including suspension, may be imposed for any of the following:

- **Illegal Conduct**
 - Engaging in any illegal or criminal activity when the Special Olympics Provincial office has a good faith belief that there has been illegal activity, whether or not there has been a formal charge made.
- **Behaviour Problems**
 - Any person behaving in a manner that is inherently dangerous to him/herself or others. This includes any violent acts, harassment, or any behaviour which impacts the integrity of Special Olympics programs.
- **Alcohol or Illegal Substance**
 - The use or consumption of alcohol or illegal substances that may affect the safety and well being of other athletes. This includes but is not limited to all training/practice sessions, the duration of competition events, or any other Special Olympics sponsored or sanctioned activity where athletes are present.
- **Abuse**
 - Any person accused or suspected of abusing (physical or sexual), molesting, assaulting, or harassing another person.