

Attendee Code of Conduct

By design, Special Olympics Washington Sport Programs and Competitions are intended to be a positive learning experience; where athletes learn skills, gain physical fitness, have fun, and build positive relationships through mentoring and modeled behavior.

Therefore as an attendee at any and all Special Olympics Washington competitions or practices I will

FOLLOW THE GOLDEN RULE – and treat coaches, parents, spectators, officials and players in the same manner I would like to be treated. This means with respect, dignity, and total sportsmanship at all times.

REMEMBER IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE FUN – and will help make it that way. I will encourage enjoyment, participation and improvement over game/event results.

BE A GOOD SPORT – and not boo, taunt, scream, gesture or make comments at, or about, players, coaches, fans or officials. I will offer applause and cheers of encouragement for both teams following a good play or a great effort.

NOT USE DRUGS, ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO – at any sporting venue, social event, including practices and competitions, and will only smoke in designated areas.

LEARN THE RULES – of the game and the policies of SOWA. I will abide by those rules and policies and insist that all others in attendance abide by those rules and policies.

NOT QUESTION OR ARGUE WITH AN OFFICIAL OR COACH'S CALL – I may not agree with a call, however it's not my job or the athletes job to officiate the game. An official's call should never be discussed by a parent or spectator.

ASK POLITELY TO TALK WITH THE COACH QUIETLY AND TO THE SIDE, AFTER THE GAME, AWAY FROM OTHERS – Or better yet, I will wait until the next day to discuss the issue. I will let the heat of the moment pass. I will never make a scene in front of the team as it's embarrassing for me, the athlete and the coach and chances are nothing will get resolved.

KNOW MY PLACE – I will remain in designated spectator, **coach, and "one on one" support** areas, and never enter the field of play, bowling lane, pool deck, ice surface etc.

INSIST MY ATHLETE SITS ON THE BENCH – between innings, frames, events, and cheer on their teammates and not visit other spectators or me. All athletes are part of a team and that team is relying on all of its members.

MOTIVATE THROUGH CONFIDENCE – I will try to identify something positive from every game or practice to help build confidence. An athlete's sense of achievement is the greatest motivator.

PUT WINNING AND LOSING INTO PERSPECTIVE – Games must have winners and losers. I will remind myself and others of this reality and the need to deal with both outcomes respectfully.

I also agree if I fail to abide by the above **zero tolerance rules and guidelines** I will be subject to consequences, which pending decision by a Disciplinary Committee, could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Verbal warning by staff, official, manager or coach
- Written warning by staff, official, manager or coach
- Be asked to leave the site immediately by staff, official, manager or coach.
- Spectator and athlete game suspension with written documentation kept on file.