

# Family/Guardian Code of Conduct Agreement

**Special Olympics**  
Texas



I understand and agree that I will:

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person in Special Olympics. Within the context of the activity, I will treat everyone equally regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
2. Ensure that athletes' time spent with Special Olympics is a positive experience.
3. Accept responsibility for my actions:
  - Language, manner, punctuality and interaction with others should display control, respect and dignity to all involved in the sport (athletes, coaches, opponents, officials, administrators, family members, spectators, media, volunteers, etc.).
  - Encourage athletes to demonstrate the same qualities.
4. Not consume alcohol or mind altering drugs while representing Special Olympics at trainings, competitions or while attending Special Olympics events.
5. Refrain from any form of verbal, physical or emotional abuse toward athletes and others. Notify a Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) staff member immediately if you witness this behavior.
6. Be a positive role model for all athletes and the sport.
7. Will learn the rules of the game and the SOTX policies before I take the complaint to my head coach.
8. Will never engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct, such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language and gestures, with any official, coach, staff, or family member.
9. Will teach my athlete that doing one's best is more important than winning so that my athlete will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
10. Will praise my athlete for competing fairly and trying hard, and I will make my athlete feel like a winner every time.
11. Will never ridicule or yell at my athlete, or other participants, for making a mistake or losing a competition.
12. Will respect the officials and their authority during games and competitions, and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches during competitions. Instead, I will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.

**If a perceived breach of the Code of Conduct is suspected, please follow these steps:**

1. Notify the Head of Delegation (HoD). The HoD should discuss inappropriate behavior with the person and resolve the issue. A verbal warning will be issued. If a resolution is not reached...
2. Notify a SOTX staff member. SOTX staff and the HoD will work together to control the situation and redirect if needed. Possible outcomes may be suspension and a written warning.
3. Notify security if the need arises. If security is called, the area director shall bring this event to the Area Management/Area Sports Management Team for review and possible sanctions. Outcomes may be a season suspension or longer depending on the infraction.

**Note:** Continued inappropriate behavior by a family member or guardian may result in the parent being banned from attending SOTX activities indefinitely. It could also jeopardize the athletes' continued participation with the delegation.

I, *(print name)* \_\_\_\_\_, hereby certify that I have reviewed, understand and agreed to this Code of Conduct.

Family Member Signature	Date
Athlete Name	
Delegation	Area