



## Code of Conduct for Coaches

**By signing below I agree to:**

### **Requirement in Coaching Standards**

- ✓ Ensure coach education qualifications are up to date and meet Special Olympics requirements

### **Respect for others**

- ✓ Maintain appropriate boundaries and respect the privacy of athletes, coaches, other volunteers, friends and spectators participating in Special Olympics activities. Particular care must be taken with respect to places such as changing areas, swimming pools, showers and toilets. There must be adequate and gender appropriate supervision for athletes. Ensure at all times there is more than one adult supervising in these situations.
- ✓ Not engage in inappropriate verbal or physical contact in any form. This should not prevent appropriate contact where it is necessary to comfort athletes and ensure their safety and well-being; neither should it preclude normal expressions of warmth or happiness provided that they are acceptable to all parties concerned.
- ✓ Treat all athletes, volunteers, spectators, officials and Special Olympics Ireland staff with respect. Remember everyone has their part to play and is entitled to a safe environment to do so.
- ✓ Lead by example and be a positive role model for the athletes and other coaches.

### **Positive Experience**

- ✓ Ensure that the athlete's experience is a positive one.
- ✓ Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each athlete.
- ✓ Make certain that each athlete competes in events that challenge that athlete's potential and are appropriate to that athlete's ability.
- ✓ Ensure athletes perform to their maximum effort in divisioning and final rounds of competition.
- ✓ Be fair, considerate and honest with athletes.
- ✓ Communicate with athletes using simple, clear language.
- ✓ Ensure that accurate records are maintained and that accurate scores are provided for entry of an athlete/team into any event.
- ✓ To make sure that athletes are never ridiculed, humiliated or shouted at for making a mistake in training or losing a match or an event.

### **Act professionally and take responsibility for actions**

- ✓ Thank competition officials, and if clarification is needed, follow the appropriate competition protest and appeals procedure.
- ✓ Ensure that language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation demonstrates the highest best practice standards.
- ✓ Display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved in the sport (athletes, coaches, opponents, officials, administrators, parents, spectators, media, etc.) and encourage athletes to do the same.
- ✓ Abide by all necessary policies and procedures and comply with all Special Olympics Rules, the International Federation and the NGB rules for the sport(s).
- ✓ Refrain from any form of abuse towards athletes.
- ✓ Be alert to any form of abuse from other sources directed towards athletes.

### **Quality services to the athletes**

- ✓ Encourage athletes to develop skills, sportsmanship and to play for fun and enjoyment.
- ✓ Seek continual improvement through performance evaluation and ongoing coach education.
- ✓ Be knowledgeable about the sports rules and the skills being coached.
- ✓ Provide a planned training programme.
- ✓ Keep copies of the medical, training, and competition records for each athlete coached and secure safely in line with Special Olympics Ireland / your Club's Data Protection policy.



**Health and safety of the athletes**

- ✓ Ensure that the equipment, rules, training and the environment are safe for use and are appropriate for the age and ability of the athletes.
- ✓ In conjunction with the Club Safeguarding Officer review each athlete participation form and be aware of any limitations noted which may affect their participation.
- ✓ Ensure that appropriate supervision is in place.
- ✓ Ensure that there is access to the following information where appropriate to your role (a) a list of names and contact numbers for parent/guardian/carer (b) up-to-date Athlete Registration Forms (c) telephone numbers for immediate contact to emergency services if required (d) any other relevant information concerning the athletes.
- ✓ Abide by all necessary policies and procedures.
- ✓ Never take photographs of athletes that are in breach of the Filming and Photography Policy. The taking of photographs and video recording is prohibited inside changing areas, dormitories, showers and toilets.
- ✓ Be sensitive to the possibility of becoming overly involved or spending a disproportionate amount of time with any particular athlete. In the event where circumstances arise where it is unavoidable to be alone with an athlete a) immediately inform another responsible adult, by telephone if necessary, and b) make a diary note that the meeting/pick up/drop off, etc. of the athlete took place (c) agree a plan with family/club to avoid reoccurrence of the situation.

**Volunteer Rights**

As a Volunteer you have the right to

- ✓ Be treated with dignity, respect and be given information about the organisation and the athletes.
- ✓ Have adequate training and volunteer in a place that complies with health & safety regulations.
- ✓ Have the freedom to make suggestions, receive constructive feedback and have access to a complaints procedure.
- ✓ Be assigned to a role (if possible) that recognises your personal preference, life experience, education and employment background as well as recognising the needs of the organisation.

**I have read Special Olympics Ireland’s Code of Conduct above and agree to abide by the guidelines**

Name of Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of coach \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Coach: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**The Club Safeguarding Officer / Chairperson can be contacted if you have a concern regarding poor practice, health and safety or an allegation of abuse.**

**Club Safeguarding Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairperson:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Insert  
photograph of  
club  
safeguarding  
officer