

SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

As fans (family, friends and supporters) of Special Olympics athletes, it is expected that everyone will play a positive role at Special Olympics Colorado events by following this code of conduct:

1. Refrain from using abusive or offensive language towards anyone: officials, coaches, opponents and fellow spectators.
2. Remember that athletes are amateur athletes and coaches and officials are volunteers.
3. An understanding of the rules may lead to a more positive experience at the event. All Special Olympics New Mexico sports follow the designated National Governing Body (NGB) rules and any exceptions or modifications to those rules are included in the Special Olympics New Mexico Rules Interpretations for the sport. A list of the designated NGB rules and the Rules Interpretations can be found at www.SONM.org in the coach section.
4. Keep in mind the Special Olympics oath and remember that winning is not the emphasis of Special Olympics competition.
5. Coaches should be the ones to do the coaching. Please refrain from shouting instructions to athletes.
6. Spectators and fans are prohibited in the competition areas. Only registered coaches, athletes and officials should be in the playing area.
7. ALL CHEERS should be positive and display good sportsmanship. Derogatory comments directed to players, coaches and officials will not be tolerated.
8. Follow instructions or directives given by officials, volunteers or Special Olympics New Mexico staff.
9. Special Olympics New Mexico has a zero tolerance rule in regard to physical altercations involving coaches, athletes, unified partners, volunteers, spectators, family members, etc.
10. Special Olympics New Mexico competitions and practices are alcohol, *tobacco and marijuana product* and drug free events. SONM asks that spectators refrain from using any alcohol, tobacco or drugs while in attendance or they will be asked to leave the venue.

Any spectator who fails to follow directives given by volunteers, officials or Special Olympics New Mexico staff or does not adhere to the code of conduct will be reprimanded. A reprimand could include one of the following:

- Will be escorted from the venue.
- Will be banned from attending future events for a given period of time.
- Will be permanently banned from attending any Special Olympics New Mexico events.