

Wood County Special Olympics Participation Expectations

Introduction

Welcome to the Wood County Special Olympics program. We are excited that you have decided to get involved and hope that you enjoy the sport (s) you have selected.

As you become involved in Special Olympics, you will find there are many benefits. You will learn the skill of a chosen sport, you will develop physical fitness, you will have opportunities to socialize and meet new friends. Through all of this you will improve your self-confidence, all while having fun.

Along with the benefits of participation in Special Olympics come some behavioral expectations and principals to abide by:

- Treat others with respect and kindness and be considerate of others and their feelings
- Be considered a team player and display an attitude of cooperation and teamwork.

These are basic principles governing all of our lives, whether on or off the field, at work, at school, or out in public. These are the basics, which we desire from those who are interested in, or involved with Special Olympics. Should these basic principles not be seen, should there be examples whereby your behaviors and attitudes are not a match, we will respectfully ask that you not be involved, or not join.

Further examples of attitudes and behaviors (not all inclusive), which are not a match for those participating in Special Olympics:

- Yelling
- Fighting
- Use of vulgar language/gestures
- Improper sexual activity
- Stubbornness, not listening to your coach or following his/her rules or those of the volunteers assisting at practices and events.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct including negative comments directed toward teammates, the opposing team, referees, volunteers, or others.
- Alcohol/drug use (see further information below)

Violations of these basic rules of good conduct and sportsmanship will result in:

1 st Time:	Written warning
2 nd Time:	Suspension for one week
3 rd Time:	Athlete will be prohibited from participating in that sport for the remainder of the season, following a hearing held by the Special Olympics Advisory Board, assuring that such removal is warranted.

Please also know that no alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs may be possessed or consumed at any Special Olympics practice or event. As a Special Olympics athlete or Unified Partner, the illegal use of drugs or alcohol or any action resulting in drug or alcohol related conviction, which action occurs during or outside of a Special Olympics practice or event, is a violation of these participation guidelines. The Special Olympics Coordinator may immediately suspend an athlete/partner from a team for this type of violation, subject to approval by the Special Olympics Advisory Board.

Attendance

- Practice attendance is expected regularly.
- Practice attendance is mandatory for eligibility for competition/events such as weekly contests, Area and State level games. In order to be considered for participation in Area, State or National events, you must have attended at least 70 % of the practices held for that activity. More than 30% absences may warrant non-participation in the above events.
- You are expected to notify the coach if you cannot attend practice prior to the start of that practice.

Physical Examination

- A current Application for Participation and Release form must be completed and on file with the Special Olympics office prior to an athletes involvement in any phase of Special Olympics training or competition. These forms are available through the Special Olympics office or can be downloaded on line at www.woodso.org. These forms are current for three years from the earliest date on the form.

Deadlines

- All deadlines will be strictly enforced. If registration materials for a sport or event are not turned in, or a phone call made to the Special Olympics Coordinator by the posted deadline that athlete will be disqualified from the registered sport/event.