

## Special Olympics Athlete Responsibilities

### Sportsmanship:

- Athletes will practice good sportsmanship.
- Athletes will not swear, use bad language or insult other persons.
- Athletes will be respectful to the coaches, partners, other athletes and facilities.
- Athletes will act in ways that bring respect to themselves, their coaches, their team and Special Olympics.

### Training:

- Athletes will be responsible for their own transportation to and from practice as well as to and from designated pick-up areas for tournaments.
- Athletes will be on time and ready to practice at the designated start time. They will be expected to run extra laps if late.
- Athletes will have a current medical on file. If the medical is not turned in by the third week of practice, they may not be eligible for State.
- Athletes will attend at least 80% of the practice sessions to be eligible for tournament play. Athletes need to attend Area and/or Districts to be eligible for State Tournament. If the athlete is scheduled to work on a practice day, they will let their coach and Area Director know and will need to attend all the other practices when not scheduled to work. This does need to be approved by Cass County.
- Athletes will dress in appropriate clothing for sports – no jeans or street shoes.
- Athletes will bring water or Gatorade to practices. **POP IS NOT ALLOWED!**

### Responsibility for Actions

- Athletes will not make inappropriate or unwanted physical or verbal advances to others.
- Athletes will not drink, smoke or take drugs while at practice, competition, on the bus or in the hotel.
- Athletes will obey all laws and Special Olympics rules.
- Athletes will leave their personal relationships outside of the practice and/or competition fields. Athletes will be placed on a team based on ability...not on whether they like someone or not.

If an athlete has behavior problems, is caught swearing, harassing other athletes or coaches, smoking, continually show up late for practice or does not participate fully in practices, they could be asked to leave practice. If it continues to be an issue, the athlete may be restricted from participating up to one full competition year.

Athletes deserve to have the highest quality training program so that they are able to compete to the best of their ability and to practice in an environment where they feel safe. These guidelines/responsibilities are in place to ensure that this occurs.