



SPECTATOR GUIDELINES

(These guidelines are for all SOPA events – training, competitions, fund raising, social, etc.)

As fans (family, friends, and supporters) of Special Olympics Athletes, you can play a positive role at SOPA events by following these suggested guidelines:

1. Please refrain from using abusive or offensive language towards anyone - especially toward officials, coaches and opponents.

- Lead by positive example.
- Keep your emotions under control. Don't let your emotions interfere with our mission or oath. Remember, these individuals are volunteers and amateur athletes.
- It may help if you understand the rules of the event. If you need further information or clarification, ask your home program for a copy of the rules pre-event or during the season so you're a well-informed fan/spectator.

2. Special Olympics venues are positive encouraging arenas. Please conduct yourself appropriately.

- Lead by positive example.
- De-emphasize winning and losing.
- Let the coaches coach the players - refrain from shouting instructions.
- Provide general cheers or positive comments after the fact/play. (Remember to abide by sport-specific rules (i.e., silence at the start of races, during a tee-off in golf.)

3. Spectators are provided designated area. (You are prohibited in the competition and/or training areas. Only coaches and athletes who are participating may be in these areas.)

- Lead by positive example.

Failure to comply with the above guidelines may result in penalties being assessed toward your program/team/delegation or you being escorted from the venue.

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN! ENJOY BEING A GREAT FAN!