



Special Olympics Great Britain – Family and Supporter Charter

Special Olympics Great Britain (GB) is fully committed to supporting safe, inclusive and enjoyable experiences for all people involved in our sport and activity.

In line with Special Olympics International's guidelines and [General Rules](#), Special Olympics GB sets out national standards of conduct for all clubs, [coaches, officials, volunteers, athletes](#) and other individuals involved in Special Olympics GB activity and sport. This includes families and carers/supporters as a valued part of our Special Olympics GB family.

The purpose of a charter is to outline/clarify:

- the standards of practice and behaviour expected
- the basis for challenging and improving practice
- Special Olympics GB's commitment to families and the wider support network for our registered athlete members.

We therefore please ask as a family member, carer or other direct supporters to a Special Olympics GB athlete that you read and agree to the following charter.

As a family member/carer/supporter of a Special Olympics GB athlete, I will support Special Olympics GB athletes to have a safe, fun and high-quality experience by:

- Behaving in line with the [Special Olympics GB's values](#)
- Setting a positive example and encouraging athletes to learn the rules of the sport, and compete within them at all times
- Helping and supporting athletes to recognise good performance, and not just results aligned to the [Special Olympics Athlete Code of Conduct and Athlete Oath](#) (Addendum D of Article 1 Special Olympics Sport Rules 2022)
- Supporting athletes to make choices on their participation and be the best that they can be
- Practicing and advocating for fair play when attending Special Olympics events
- Never exerting undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward
- Displaying control, respect, dignity to and not discriminating against all involved including athletes, unified partners, coaches, volunteers, employees of Special Olympics GB, opponents, competition management and officials, families/carers, spectators and media in all interactions.
- Avoiding swearing, using abusive language and irresponsible or illegal behaviours, including behaviour that is dangerous to myself or others, acts of violence, bullying, harassment and physical or sexual abuse
- Checking the qualifications and licences of people who are coaching or managing athletes where needed
- Ensuring appropriate duty of care for athletes is in place
- Supporting and advocating for the implementation of processes for the safeguarding and welfare of all members of the Special Olympics GB family

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- Cooperating fully with others involved in the sport such as technical officials, team managers, coaches, medical and other professionals in the best interests of the athlete
- Returning any necessary written consent forms to the club/team manager or appropriate person, including next of kin details, health and medical / medication requirements as required
- Abiding by the Special Olympics GB [Safeguarding Policy and Procedures](#)
- Reporting any concerns about any athlete's welfare to the Club or Event Safeguarding & Welfare Officer or [Special Olympics GB Safeguarding Lead](#) (This does not affect your right to contact your local Social Services or the Police if you feel it is necessary)

I understand that should I not follow the guidance set out in this charter that I may be subject to sanctions by Special Olympics GB as appropriate. Examples of sanctions include but are not limited to:

- Being asked to apologise for my behaviour
- Receiving a verbal or written warning from the National Office Team/Games Organising Committee
- Being suspended from attending events and/or future club activities
- Being required to leave the club and/or event

Special Olympics GB understands that the families, carers and supporters of our athletes have the right to:

- Be assured that the athletes you are supporting are safeguarded at Special Olympics GB sanctioned events and competitions
- Know that Special Olympics GB complies with all its statutory and regulatory obligations
- Have access to [Special Olympics GB policy and procedures](#)
- Understand what training and qualifications our staff and support team have
- Be informed of any problems or concerns that may impact the athlete(s) you are supporting.
- Have access to information and support if an athlete you are supporting is involved in an accident or injury
- Be listened to and responded to by Special Olympics GB regarding any concerns you may have around athlete welfare
- Receive fair and equal treatment, have your rights dignity and worth respected and not be discriminated against

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