

If you can, it is better to take this test online at http://www.specialolympics.org/protective_behaviors.aspx. If you need to complete your requirement on paper, please use this printed version but ignore references to web links.

Protective Behaviors

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Welcome to the Special Olympics on-line training program for Protective Behaviors. . .

Thank you for being a part of the Special Olympics family. It is through the caring, concern and talents of all our athletes, families and volunteers that Special Olympics has become one of the most respected sports programs in the world. Your participation in the Protective Behaviors Training Program is just one more way that you demonstrate your dedication.

The main objective of this presentation is the prevention of sexual abuse of Special Olympics athletes. It will also briefly address physical and emotional abuse.

Please note once you reach screen 18 of 18 of the training, you will see a 10 Question Test.

After you take the test, please click "Check Answers" at the bottom of the page.

If all your answers are correct, please click "Finish" at the bottom right hand of the page.

If you didn't score 100% on the test, please click on "Reset the form" and retake the test.

After you click Finish, you will be directed to a Confirmation Form to fill out and submit. Once you click submit, both you and the Special Olympics program in your state will receive confirmation that you have taken the test.

Now it's time to start! Click the link below to get started.

Start by clicking the link below. Then, as you complete each page, click the **next page** button at the bottom right-hand corner of each page. By doing this, you will move through all 5 sections in order.

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Actions Special Olympics has Taken to Protect Athletes:

This protective behavior training
Volunteer screening requirements in the US
Codes of conduct for athletes and coaches
Policy prohibiting volunteers or staff in authority positions from dating athletes

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Actions Special Olympics has Taken to Protect Athletes:

Special Olympics US Volunteer Screening Policy

- The foremost goal of the volunteer screening policy is to protect the safety and well-being of athletes
- Special Olympics screens prospective Class A volunteers
- Class A volunteers are re-screened every three years
- If screening reveals criminal history involving certain offenses, the volunteer is prohibited from participation

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Who is a Class A Volunteer?

Definition:

- Volunteers who have regular, close, physical contact with athletes
- Volunteers in a position of authority or supervision with athletes
- Volunteers in a position of trust of athletes
- Volunteers who handle substantial amounts of cash or other assets of the Program

Examples:

- Coaches, Unified Partners, chaperones, overnight hosts, ALPs mentors, drivers of athletes
- May also include Fundraising Event Committee members, board members, and Games Management team members

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Benefits and Limitations of the Volunteer Screening Policy

- Volunteer screening is a tool Special Olympics uses to help protect athletes, but it is not fool-proof
- Many predators do not have criminal records
- Your job as a volunteer is to be vigilant and report any behavior or activity that does not appear appropriate based on
 - Your personal experience or
 - Warning signs identified in this presentation

Actions Special Olympics has Taken to Protect Athletes:

Codes of Conduct

Codes of Conduct are in effect and enforced for athletes, coaches and volunteers.

All Special Olympics Programs are required to have a code of conduct for athletes and coaches. The codes below list the minimum standards set by Special Olympics. Please check with your local Special Olympics Program to see if there is a more restrictive code for that Program. To locate the Special Olympics Program near you, use our [Program Locator](#)

[Athlete Code of Conduct](#)

[Coach Code of Conduct](#)

[Volunteer Code of Conduct](#)

Each Program is responsible for establishing guidelines for sanctions related to breach of these codes of conduct

Included in the codes of conduct are references to the [prohibition of volunteers or staff in authority positions dating athletes](#)

Prevention:

Recognizing Sexual Predators

A sexual predator could be anyone. There is no “look” or behavior pattern that sets them apart. Sexual Predators:

- Target vulnerable populations (such as children and individuals with intellectual disabilities);
 - Come from all backgrounds;
 - Can be male or female;
 - Are generally very likeable and have warm personalities;
 - May have limited relationships with other adults
-
- Remind athletes and families that not everyone who comes to a Special Olympics event is a volunteer who has been screened and is assumed to be “safe”

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Prevention:

Sexual Abuse

- For athletes requiring assistance with changing, toileting or showering, it is a best practice if two volunteers are present.
- Private conversations with athletes should be within sight of others who are aware of the conversation
- Hugs should respect both athlete and volunteer limits and never be secretive
- Touching should avoid areas a traditional swimsuit would cover
- Be aware of unusual or inappropriate gifts, trips, affection or attention from a volunteer
- Be aware of relationships between volunteers and athletes that become private or secretive
- Be clear and direct about pointing out inappropriate behavior

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Prevention:

Inappropriate Behavior

Inappropriate gifts, trips, outings, or other gestures of affection from a volunteer include:

Invitations for sleepovers at a volunteer's house;

Invitations to parties at a volunteer's house where parents or care providers are not included;

Excessive displays of interest in a particular athlete or group of athletes (such as all male athletes or only athletes under the age of 13);

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Prevention:

Tips for Travel

Be sure to separate sleeping rooms by gender

Try to assign roommates based on similar age, maturity and size

Establish a plan for checking on each room/athlete

Clearly explain rules and behavior expectations of both chaperones and athletes before each trip

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Prevention:

Emotional Abuse

Profanity is never allowed

Treat athletes with respect and provide encouragement

Do not allow demeaning nicknames even among teammates

Discipline should be part of a meaningful behavior modification strategy and never acted on in anger

Prevention:

Physical Abuse

Corporal punishment is never allowed no matter who says it is OK
Withholding food or water is maltreatment and strictly prohibited
Only give prescribed medications in accordance with state regulations
(consult your Special Olympics Program office for those regulations)
Be aware of athlete sensitivity to temperature, sound and touch

Prevention of Abuse Pre-Quiz

Using the information that has been presented so far, select the most appropriate answer to the questions below.

1. When is it appropriate to withhold water from an athlete?
 - Only when the athlete is unprepared or uncooperative
 - Never
 - When the weather is cool and water isn't really needed
 - When the athlete is underachieving and could use a "water break" as motivation
 - 2.
 - 3.
 4. What is the rule about what areas of the body to avoid touching?
 - Avoid all areas; don't make yourself vulnerable to an accusation!
 - Avoid areas where he/she doesn't like to be touched
 - Set some groundrules early on, so you know where your athlete is okay with being touched
 - Avoid areas a traditional swimsuit would cover
 - 5.
 - 6.
 7. A sexual predator:
 - Can be male or female
 - Is generally likeable
 - Gives inappropriate attention to a vulnerable population
 - All of the above
-
-

How to Recognize Abuse

Changes in behavior may offer the only visible clue that an athlete is the victim of abuse. Abuse causes stress and victims often exhibit stress related behavior

- Depression

- Withdrawal (including loss of interest in participation in Special Olympics)

- Thoughts of or attempts at suicide

- Aggression

- Immature acts

- Sleep disturbances

Uncharacteristic changes in behavior that last for more than a few days indicate a possible need for intervention, but are not a certain indicator of abuse as there are other causes of stress. The absence of behavioral indicators does not indicate a lack of abuse

How to Recognize Abuse

Statements by the athlete concerning inappropriate touching or physical harm

Physical indicators of abuse

Questionable injuries such as bruises or lacerations in the soft tissue areas of an athlete's body. Bruises change color during the healing process and bruises of different colors indicate different stages of healing, thereby indicating that the injuries happened on more than one occasion

Injuries to genital areas may indicate sexual abuse; for example, cigarette burns on the inside of the upper leg or on the buttocks

Tether marks or rope burns and abrasions caused by tying wrists, ankles or the neck are also indicators of probable abuse

Some athletes are prone to injuries as a consequence of athletic competition. The location of the injury may indicate whether the injury was due to abuse or competition. Injuries that happen due to athletic competition are most likely to be on the shins, knees, elbows, etc. They are less likely to be on the abdomen, across the back, on the backs of the legs, or on facial cheeks

Possible signs of neglect include

Unattended medical needs

Inappropriate clothing for the climate and weather conditions

Chronic hunger and poor personal hygiene

Reporting Suspicious Activity

Suspicious activity should be reported to Special Olympics staff
Reports will be reviewed and reported as appropriate
Suspensions may be utilized during investigations
Special Olympics reserves the right to expel athletes or volunteers as a result of suspected or confirmed physical, sexual or emotional abuse of a Special Olympics athlete

Be ready to say...

What makes you think this activity is suspicious
When you witnessed the activity – or first suspected it

Who to tell...

If the activity is during Special Olympics functions, tell local Special Olympics leadership (preferably staff)
If you suspect that an athlete is in immediate danger, notify the police, and then Special Olympics staff
If you are a mandatory reporter under your state's laws, report as required by statute in addition to the report you file with Special Olympics
Reporting is NOT the same as accusing. It just alerts professionals to investigate

State Statutes Results

Montana

Child Abuse and Neglect

Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect

To better understand this issue and to view it across States, see the *Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect: Summary of State Laws* ([PDF](#) - 633 KB) publication.

Professionals Required to Report

Citation: Ann. Code § 41-3-201

Professionals required to report include:

- Physicians, residents, interns, members of hospital staffs, nurses, osteopaths, chiropractors, podiatrists, medical examiners, coroners, dentists, optometrists, or any other health professionals
- School teachers, other school officials, employees who work during regular school hours, operators or employees of any registered or licensed daycare or substitute care facility, or any other operators or employees of child care facilities
- Mental health professionals or social workers
- Religious healers
- Foster care, residential, or institutional workers
- Members of clergy, as defined in § 15-6-2-1(2)(a): The term "clergy" means:
 - An ordained minister, priest, or rabbi
 - A commissioned or licensed minister of a church or church denomination that ordains ministers if the person has the authority to perform substantially all the religious duties of the church or denomination
 - A member of a religious order who has taken a vow of poverty
 - A Christian Science practitioner
- Guardians *ad litem* or court-appointed advocates authorized to investigate a report
- Peace officers or other law enforcement officials

Reporting by Other Persons

Citation: Ann. Code § 41-3-201

Any other person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused or neglected may report.

Standards for Making a Report
Citation: Ann. Code § 41-3-201

A report is required when:

A reporter knows or has reasonable cause to suspect, as a result of information received in his or her professional or official capacity, that a child is abused or neglected.

A health-care professional involved in the delivery or care of an infant knows that the infant is affected by a dangerous drug.

Privileged Communications
Citation: Ann. Code § 41-3-201

A person listed as a mandated reporter may not refuse to make a report as required in this section on the grounds of a physician-patient or similar privilege.

A member of the clergy or priest is not required to make a report under this section if the communication is required to be confidential by canon law, church doctrine, or established church practice.

Inclusion of Reporter's Name in Report
Not addressed in statutes reviewed.

Disclosure of Reporter Identity
Citation: Ann. Code § 41-3-205

The identity of the reporter shall not be disclosed in any release of information to the subject of the report.

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Am I A Mandatory Reporter Under My State's Laws?

- Nearly all states have laws that require some individuals to report suspected abuse (such as teachers, healthcare providers, etc.)
- In some states, everyone is a mandatory reporter
- Utilize the website below to familiarize yourself with your state's reporting requirements (choose the state that you wish to check and "Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse & Neglect" and the click "go")
http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state/ see above

Mail these last 3 pages, completed, to Special Olympics Montana,
PO Box 3507, Great Falls, MT 59403 or fax to 406-454-9043

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Final Quiz

Instructions: Please take the following quiz to test your knowledge of protective behaviors. When you finish, click the "Check my answers" button at the bottom of the page. If you give any incorrect answers, please click the "Reset the form" button and retake the quiz until you answer all the questions correctly. At that time, a "Finish" link will appear at the bottom of the quiz. Click the link to continue to the final portion of the training program, where you will submit your name, address and email address to your State Program, thereby confirming that you have read and understand the information presented in this program.

1. Who determines the punishment for violating a Special Olympics Code of Conduct?
 - The state chapter
 - The coach
 - Any Special Olympics staff member in a position of authority
 - Society

2. Which of the following is NOT an indicator of potential inappropriate behavior?
 - Unusual or inappropriate gifts from a volunteer
 - Questionable injuries such as bruises or lacerations in the soft tissue areas of an athlete's body
 - Two Class A volunteers assisting with changing, showering or toileting
 - Relationships between volunteers and athletes that become private or secretive

3. Have you checked to see if you are a mandatory reporter in your State?
 - Yes
 - No

4. When is it appropriate to withhold water from an athlete?
- Only when the athlete is unprepared or uncooperative
 - Never
 - When the weather is cool and water isn't really needed
 - When the athlete is underachieving and could use a "water break" as motivation
5. What is the rule about what areas of the body to avoid touching?
- Avoid all areas; don't make yourself vulnerable to an accusation!
 - Avoid areas where he/she doesn't like to be touched
 - Set some groundrules early on, so you know where your athlete is okay with being touched
 - Avoid areas a traditional swimsuit would cover
6. What should you do if you suspect that an athlete is in immediate danger?
- Ask the athlete if he/she has been abused
 - Notify the police, and then Special Olympics staff
 - Tell the coach or volunteer to take it easy on the athlete
 - Notify the athlete's parents
7. When is a private meeting with an athlete appropriate?
- When the athlete is misbehaving and needs to be reprimanded
 - When you have something personal to tell the athlete and you want to be out of earshot of his/her teammates
 - When it is within sight of others who are aware of the conversation
 - A private meeting with an athlete is never appropriate

8. When assigning rooms for an overnight stay, what should you consider?
- What's to consider? Go through your list and group the athletes alphabetically by last name
 - Try to put athletes who are friends together
 - Athletes of the same community oftentimes prefer to room together
 - Separate sleeping rooms by gender and assign roommates based on similar age, maturity and size
9. Is it permissible for a volunteer in an authority position over an athlete to date that athlete?
- Yes
 - No
 - Depends on the circumstances
10. Is a Unified Partner subject to volunteer screening policies in the US?
- Yes
 - No
-

Confirmation

By completing the form below I am representing that I have reviewed the entire Protective Behaviors training program and understand its contents. Please note that each volunteer must complete the Protective Behaviors training and submit his or her information individually. Multiple volunteers on one submission will not be accepted.

Your Information (* denotes required fields)

First Name	<input type="text"/>	*	
Last Name	<input type="text"/>	*	
E-mail	<input type="text"/>	* or phone number	
Address	<input type="text"/>		
City	<input type="text"/>	*	
State	<input type="text" value="Select one"/>	*	
	Zip	<input type="text"/>	*