

## **Policy A- 002 Ohio Senior Olympics Athlete Code of Conduct**

The Code of Conduct provides guidelines for athlete behavior during the course of the games and explains the consequences for behavior that does not meet these standards. The Code of Conduct will be included in the rules athletes receive as part of their confirmation packet for the state games.

### **Preamble**

Participants in the Ohio Senior Olympics are expected to act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct as outlined in this Code of Conduct.

### **Code of Conduct**

1. All participants shall treat one another and all other people with dignity and respect. Participants shall behave according to the rules of their sport(s) and shall avoid conduct that demeans, harasses or threatens any person. The breadth and force of this principle would prohibit any participant at any time from physically or verbally abusing another person; from using excessive profane language or vulgar gestures; from demeaning or belittling another person or making derogatory comments about his or/her race, sex religion, age, disability, national origin or sexual orientation; and from engaging in conduct intended, or so reckless as to be likely, to cause harm to another.
2. All participants shall promote honesty and integrity in their statement and actions.
3. All participants have not and will not engage in any conduct which is criminal under any local, state or federal laws.
4. All participants will respect the property of others, whether personal or public.
5. All participants will remember that they are an ambassador for their sport, their state and the Ohio Senior Olympics movement and will demonstrate this with a positive attitude, support of fellow athletes and support of Ohio Senior Olympics.

### **Enforcement**

Ohio Senior Olympics board members, Event Director or designee, staff, and officials shall have complete authority to enforce the above Code. Those violating the Code shall be subject to, reprimand, suspension, or expulsion from the event or games, and/or from the Ohio Senior Olympics.

Participation in the Ohio Senior Olympics as a player, coach or spectator is a privilege to be attained by meeting accepted standards of good sportsmanship and appropriate conduct. The Ohio Senior Olympics (OSO) and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) reserve the right to disqualify any player, coach or spectator from further participation in the Ohio Senior Olympic event for inappropriate conduct including, but not limited to, the following:

- Unsportsmanlike or disorderly behavior or language
- False representation of age or eligibility
- Physical or verbal assaults or threats

- Destruction of property
- Inappropriate contact with event staff or OSO Board members
- Failure to follow policies or rules established by OSO

Athletes and coaches are responsible for knowing, understanding, and following all rules, policies, and the code of conduct for their sport. The OSO Board will make all policies available on the OSO website at [www.ohio.nsga.com](http://www.ohio.nsga.com). Any player, coach or spectator who is ejected from a contest shall, as a minimum penalty, be ineligible to participate in the next contest. In any event which may qualify an individual for advancement to the national level, OSO and the LOC reserve the right to deny any athlete and coach from participating in the *National Senior Games – The Senior Olympics* for violating this code of conduct.

Participants shall have the right to appeal any decision related to this policy to the Ohio Senior Olympics Board by following Policy A-003 Ohio Senior Olympics Protest & Grievance Policy.

#### **Default During Competition:**

Athletes or teams that forfeit during pool play rounds for other than a verified medical reason shall not be permitted to advance to the championship or consolation brackets. Verification by a member of the games' medical staff of an athlete's injury and capability to continue must be submitted and subsequently approved by the Event Director or designee, LOC, or OSO Board prior to the athlete being permitted to continue.

Athletes or teams that forfeit during championship or consolation play shall not be eligible for awards and shall not qualify for the *National Senior Games – The Senior Olympics* other than for a verified medical reason. Verification by a member of the games' medical staff of an athlete's injury and capability to continue must be submitted and subsequently approved by the Event Director or designee, LOC, or OSO Board prior to receipt of any award.

Effective October 11, 2019