

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC POLICY MANUAL

Section: **ADMINISTRATION**
Policy: **Authority to Suspend Athletes and Volunteers**
Effective Date: December 16, 2015
Revised:
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While Special Olympics BC athletes are the most visible and important members of our organization, and the efforts, time, skills and judgment of volunteers make it possible for athletes to benefit from quality sport training and competitive opportunities in a safe and positive environment, there are times when the behaviour or actions of an athlete or volunteer require that they be suspended from participation in the organization.

The head coach of a program may suspend an athlete or volunteer from participation for the remainder of that practice where he or she believes such suspension is necessary to ensure safety, to prevent disruption of the program, or otherwise required as a result of inappropriate behaviour. If the head coach believes that the athlete or volunteer should be suspended for a longer period of time, he/she must contact the Program Coordinator for that Local and provide a written incident report and recommendation to the Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator shall review the report with the Local Executive.

Following such review, the Local Executive may suspend an athlete or volunteer from participation in that program for up to two weeks, or if it is deemed necessary, from all sport programs for up to two weeks as appropriate in the circumstances. A written incident report must be submitted to Special Olympics VP, Sport with details of the incident and suspension levied. When such suspension may result in the athlete missing a qualifying event, the Vice President, Sport must endorse the suspension.

In implementing this policy, the head coach may suspend an athlete or volunteer for the remainder of a practice, and if he or she feels it appropriate, recommend to the Local Executive that the athlete be suspended for a further period. The Local Executive, should they so decide, may suspend that athlete for up to two weeks, and the Local Executive may, if it feels appropriate, recommend to the Vice President, Sport, that a longer suspension be applied. The Provincial Office of Special Olympics BC may suspend an athlete or volunteer for such longer period as it deems appropriate in the circumstances.

In cases where the behaviour or actions of an athlete or volunteer causes physical harm to themselves or others, or damage to a facility, the Vice President, Sport must be notified immediately.

Any suspension of a volunteer or athlete for periods longer than two weeks may only be initiated by the Provincial Office of Special Olympics BC on the recommendation of the Vice President, Sport or a designate.

All suspensions may be appealed as per the Athlete Conduct Management and Volunteer Conduct Management policies.