

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC POLICY MANUAL

Section: **ADMINISTRATION**

Policy: **Authority to Suspend Athletes and Volunteers**

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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 participating 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 because of inappropriate behaviour. If the head coach believes that the athlete or volunteer should be suspended for a longer period of time, they must contact the Local Coordinator for that Local and provide a written incident report and recommendation to the Local Coordinator. The Local shall review the report with the Local Committee.

Following such a review, the Local Committee 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.

If it feels appropriate, the Local Committee may recommend to the Vice President, Sport, that a longer suspension be applied. The Vice President, Sport for Special Olympics BC may suspend an athlete or volunteer for a 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 Code of Conduct policy.