



Athlete Policy
Allegations of Sexual Misconduct
and/or Placement on Sex Offenders' Registry Involving an Athlete

Board Approved: April 26, 2013

Special Olympics Arkansas (SOAR) wishes to provide a safe environment for participants at all SOAR events.

The following policy will apply to all athletes participating in SOAR.

For purposes of this policy, the term "crime of a sexual nature" refers, without limitation, to sexual acts and sexual contact offenses and is meant to include all criminal offenses that have an element involving a sexual act or sexual contact with another. The offenses covered include all sexual offenses whose elements involve: (i) any type or degree of genital, oral, or anal penetration, or (ii) any sexual touching of or contact with a person's body, either directly or through the clothing.

It also includes sexual trafficking or sexual exploitation of a minor, possession, importation, production, distribution, or receipt of child pornography, manufacturing or promoting pornography for minors and furnishing pornographic materials to minors as defined by Arkansas or federal law.

The above definition although comprehensive, is not exclusive. SOAR, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to consider and include other or additional acts, violations, or crimes not specified in this definition.

Any SOAR athlete who is or becomes aware of any athlete, volunteer, or other staff member who is alleged to have committed, or is under investigation for committing a crime of a sexual nature or who witnesses or observes any athlete, volunteer, or other staff member commit a crime of a sexual nature must notify SOAR immediately in person, by telephone or in writing, to include email. Failure to perform the notification obligation may be grounds for disqualification from the program or disciplinary action.

Anyone who has been alleged to have committed, or is under investigation for committing a crime of a sexual nature will be suspended indefinitely from participating in any SOAR activity, pending resolution of that allegation or investigation.

Any person who is required by state or federal law to register with any Sex Offenders Registry is permanently barred from participating as an athlete in any SOAR activity.

Any person who has been or is hereafter convicted of, been found guilty of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to committing, attempting to commit, or conspiring to commit a crime of a sexual nature, including the receiving of a suspended imposition or execution of sentence following a plea or finding of guilty, is also permanently barred from participating as an athlete in any SOAR activity. SOAR will aggressively pursue all legal remedies available to it against any individual (or that individual's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) covered by this policy who fails to comply with this policy's reporting and suspension requirements.