

SPECIAL OLYMPICS LOUISIANA
Participation Policy

Special Olympics Louisiana (SOL) has adopted the following policy regarding its ability to screen, limit, deny or otherwise control the persons that it allows to participate in SOL activities.

Participation in SOL is a privilege and not a right. The participants must obey the rules and Codes of Conduct established by SOL or may be denied the opportunity to participate in the SOL Program.

PURPOSE: The purpose of enacting this Participation Policy is to ensure the safety and welfare of SOL athletes, coaches, volunteers, staff and all others involved with SOL. This purpose will be achieved by limiting, restricting, and/or banning participation in SOL by those who fall within the terms of this policy.

PARTICIPANT: Participant includes any athlete, coach, volunteer, staff or any other person involved with SOL.

POLICY: SOL has determined that if the following actions have occurred, the Participant may be limited or banned from SOL activities:

- Any criminal conviction
- Any pending criminal charge until such charge has been favorably resolved
- Use or sale of illegal drugs and/or firearms
- Any violation of the SOL Code of Conduct
- Any other actions which may harm other participants or reflect negatively on SOL
- Any known aggressive behavior towards others
- Any Participant who has been permanently banned from participation by another U.S. Special Olympics Program may not participate in any Sol activity.

All determinations regarding possible limitation, expulsion, restrictions and/or banning from SOL activities will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the President/CEO of SOL. Once SOL is made aware of a possible violation of the policy, SOL may take any of the following actions:

1. Verify the violation or charges with the proper state and/or local authorities;
2. SOL may conduct a background check of a participant, including criminal, employment, credit or social/rehabilitation services; and
3. Notify the participant, parent(s) or guardian(s) and the Local Program Coordinator, as required of such action(s) being taken.

A participant who has been notified of any restriction or ban may appeal to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of SOL. The appealing party may provide additional

reasons or justifications to relieve the restriction or ban. The appeal must be made in writing to the Chairman of the Board of Directors within 30 days after receiving notice of the restriction or ban. If an appeal is made, the Executive Committee shall convene within a reasonable time to further review the matter and recommend the following:

1. Further investigation;
2. Support the restriction or ban;
3. Relief from the restriction or ban; or
4. Any other relief that the Executive Committee deems appropriate.

The determination of the Executive Committee shall be final.

At all times, this policy will be applied to protect the health, safety, and rights of all participants in Special Olympics Louisiana. This policy shall become effective immediately upon adoption .