

# **SC Athletics Programs Branch (SCAP) of the South Carolina Recreation & Parks Association (SCRPA) Policy for Transgender Children in SCAP:**

The South Carolina Athletics Program Branch and its participating agencies provide inclusive programs to all participants who differ in various characteristics. SCRPA and SCAP does not discriminate regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin or ability.

The South Carolina Athletics Program Branch and its participating agencies allow transgender children to participate in SCAP recreational sports programs which correspond to their gender identity on a case by case and season by season basis, and with SCAP's Board approval.

For registration purposes on gender-based programs, a participant may register with the gender and name with which the participant identifies and conformation sufficient for guaranteeing access shall be satisfied by documentation or evidence that shows the stated gender is sincerely held, and part of the participants core identity.

Documentation to be provided to the Agency shall include but is not limited to:

- A written statement from the participant and parent(s)/guardian(s) affirming the consistent gender identity and expression to which the participant identifies and
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must provide the Agency written consent to speak to SCAP Board of Directors, staff, coaches and parents/guardians of teammates about their participant's gender identification;

and one of the following:

- Written verification from an appropriate health-care professional (physician or psychiatrist) of the participant's consistent gender identification and expression; or
- Medical documentation which can include hormonal therapy, sexual re-assignment surgery, counseling, etc.; or
- Current school registration information.

The Agency who is participating in the SCAP tournament shall have a signed affidavit that the above information has been verified by an Agency representative(s) and the parent/guardian of the participant.

If the Agency denies participation to a transgender participant for recreational sports activities, the participant's eligibility remains with the gender determined by the birth certificate for SCAP's recreational sports programs.

If the Agency approves participation for a transgender participant, the participant may not return to his/her original gender identified on the birth certificate for SCAP recreational sports programs unless another evaluation is undertaken by the participating Agency because of a change in circumstances.

The South Carolina Athletics Program Branch will take active steps to protect and promote the well-being of the participant by instructing staff/coaches:

- to protect a transgender participant's rights and privacy
- to respect a transgender participant's gender identity and use the participant's preferred pronouns
- to respect a transgender participant's choices to dress in clothing and accessories that assert his/her gender identity

Any protest will follow the procedures outlined in the SCAP boards' manual/bylaws.