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## **Federal Act on the Promotion of Sport and Exercise (Sport Promotion Act, SpoPA)**

of 17 June 2011 (Status as of 1 January 2022)

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*The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,  
based on Article 68 of the Federal Constitution<sup>1</sup>,  
having considered the Federal Council Dispatch of 11 November 2009<sup>2</sup>,  
decrees:*

### **Chapter 1    General Provisions**

#### **Art. 1            Objectives**

<sup>1</sup> In the interest of the physical fitness and health of the population, holistic education and social cohesion, this Act seeks to achieve the following:

- a. to increase sports and exercise activities of all age groups;
- b. to increase the importance of sport and exercise in education and training;
- c. to create suitable conditions for promoting talented young athletes and elite sport;
- d. to encourage behaviour that establishes the positive values of sport in society and fights undesirable side effects;
- e. to prevent accidents in sport and exercise.

<sup>2</sup> The Confederation achieves these objectives through:

- a. supporting and conducting programmes and projects;
- b. measures pertaining in particular to education, high performance sport, fairness and safety in sport, and research.

#### **Art. 2            Cooperation with cantons, communes and private entities**

<sup>1</sup> The Confederation shall work with the cantons, and communes. It shall take account of their measures to promote sport and exercise.

AS 2012 3953

<sup>1</sup> SR 101

<sup>2</sup> BBl 2009 8189

<sup>2</sup> The Confederation shall encourage private ventures and work closely with Swiss sports associations.

## **Chapter 2 Support for Programmes and Projects**

### **Section 1 General Promotion of Sport and Exercise**

#### **Art. 3** Programmes and projects

<sup>1</sup> The Confederation shall coordinate, support and initiate programmes and projects to promote regular sport and exercise activities among all age groups.

<sup>2</sup> The Confederation may provide funds or benefits.

#### **Art. 4** Support for sports associations

<sup>1</sup> The Confederation shall support the umbrella organisation for Swiss sports associations and may pay contributions to other national sports associations.

<sup>2</sup> The Confederation may enter into service agreements with sports associations on tasks to promote sport.

<sup>3</sup> Within the scope of its powers, the Confederation shall ensure that international sports associations encounter favourable conditions for their activities in Switzerland.

#### **Art. 5** Sports facilities

<sup>1</sup> The Confederation shall produce a national sports concept that serves to plan and coordinate sports facilities of national importance. This concept shall be regularly updated.

<sup>2</sup> The Confederation may provide financial support towards building sports facilities of national importance.

<sup>3</sup> It may advise builders and operators of sports facilities.

### **Section 2 «Youth and Sport»**

#### **Art. 6** Programme

<sup>1</sup> The Confederation shall direct the «Youth and Sport» programme for children and adolescents.

<sup>2</sup> The «Youth and Sport» programme serves to promote the development of children and adolescents and enables them to experience sport in a holistic way.

<sup>3</sup> Participation in the «Youth and Sport» programme is possible for the first time from 1 January in the year in which the child reaches the age of five, and ends on 31 December of the year in which the adolescent reaches the age of 20.

**Art. 7** Cooperation

<sup>1</sup> The cantons, communes and private organisations shall participate in conducting the «Youth and Sport» programme. The Confederation may conclude service agreements.

<sup>2</sup> The cantons shall designate an authority responsible for conducting the «Youth and Sport» programme.

**Art. 8** Options

The «Youth and Sport» programme supports courses and camps in the recognised sports disciplines for various target groups.

**Art. 9** Training of leaders

<sup>1</sup> Training leaders is the responsibility of the Confederation and cantons. The assistance of private organisations is allowed.

<sup>2</sup> The Confederation supervises the training of leaders.

<sup>3</sup> The Confederation defines the options for training leaders and lays down the requirements for issue, suspension, withdrawal and the loss of recognition of «Youth and Sport» leadership.

<sup>4</sup> The Federal Office of Sport (FOSPO) decides on the issue, suspension, and withdrawal of recognition as a «Youth and Sport» leader and determines the loss of such recognition.

**Art. 10** Exceptional criminal record check

<sup>1</sup> If there is specific evidence that a person has committed a criminal offence that is incompatible with their position as «Youth and Sport» leader, FOSPO shall conduct checks on the person concerned.

<sup>2</sup> If proceedings are pending against such a person for a criminal offence that is incompatible with their position as a «Youth and Sport» leader, FOSPO shall suspend their recognition.

<sup>3</sup> If such a person has been convicted of a criminal offence that is incompatible with their position as a «Youth and Sport» leader and has exhausted any rights of appeal, FOSPO shall refuse or withdraw their recognition.

<sup>4</sup> In order to carry out personal checks, FOSPO shall inspect the data on convictions and on pending criminal proceedings in the register of criminal convictions.

<sup>5</sup> On request, the law enforcement authorities and the courts must provide FOSPO with further information from the relevant criminal files if:

- a. such information is required for deciding on the issue, suspension or withdrawal of recognition as a «Youth and Sport» leader;
- b. this does not compromise the personal rights of third parties; and
- c. this does not prejudice the outcome of the criminal proceedings.

**Art. 11** Federal support

<sup>1</sup> The Confederation shall provide financial support for courses, camps and leader courses organised by the cantons and by private organisations.

<sup>2</sup> The Confederation may provide equipment on loan for conducting «Youth and Sport» events.

**Chapter 3 Education and Research****Section 1 Sport in Schools****Art. 12** Promotion of sports and exercise options

<sup>1</sup> The cantons shall promote daily sports and exercise options within the context of schooling. They provide the necessary facilities and equipment.

<sup>2</sup> Sports lessons are mandatory in compulsory schools and upper secondary schools.

<sup>3</sup> In agreement with the cantons, the Confederation shall lay down the minimum number of lessons and quality standards for sports lessons in compulsory schools and upper secondary schools excluding vocational schools. In doing so, the Confederation shall take the school level requirements into account.

<sup>4</sup> Three sports lessons a week are mandatory in compulsory schools.

<sup>5</sup> The Confederation shall specify the minimum number of lessons and quality standards required for sports lessons at vocational schools.

**Art. 13** Basic and continuing teacher training

<sup>1</sup> In cooperation with the cantons, the Confederation may support the basic and continuing training of teachers who give sports lessons.

<sup>2</sup> In consultation with the Confederation, the cantons shall determine the minimum level of sports teacher training and specify the requirements their training must meet.

**Section 2 Swiss Federal Institute of Sport****Art. 14**

<sup>1</sup> The Confederation shall organise a university for sport teaching sports science, conducting sport-related research and providing services and basic and continuing education and training in the tertiary sector.

<sup>2</sup> The accreditation of the Swiss Federal Institute of Sport is according to legislation on the funding and coordination of higher education in Switzerland.

<sup>3</sup> The Confederation regulates the admission to sports studies.

### **Section 3 Sport-related Research**

#### **Art. 15**

The Confederation may support sport-related research.

### **Chapter 4 High Performance Sport**

#### **Art. 16 Measures**

<sup>1</sup> The Confederation shall support the promotion of performance sport for talented young athletes and of elite sport.

<sup>2</sup> For this it takes in particular the following measures:

- a. It shall provide services to help elite sports athletes improve their performance.
- b. It promotes the basic and continuing education and training of trainers.
- c.<sup>3</sup> It shall create opportunities for elite sports athletes and members of the armed forces who work with elite sports athletes as coaches, support staff or officials to work on developing the athletes' performance levels and on competing in events while on compulsory or voluntary military service.

<sup>3</sup> The Confederation may promote options that make it possible to balance sport and education.

#### **Art. 17 International sports events**

<sup>1</sup> The Confederation may support international sports events and congresses in Switzerland that are of European or global importance, as long as the cantons make an appropriate contribution to the costs.

<sup>2</sup> The Confederation may promote and coordinate the preparation and conduct of major international sports events. In doing so, it shall work with the cantons and communes and with the organising sports associations.

### **Chapter 5 Fairness and Safety**

#### **Section 1 General Measures**

#### **Art. 18**

<sup>1</sup> The Confederation shall champion the observance of fairness and safety in sport. It shall fight undesirable accompanying phenomena.

<sup>3</sup> Amended by Annex No II 1 of the Civil Protection and Civil Defence Act of 20 Dec. 2019, in force since 1 Jan. 2021 (AS 2020 4995; BBl 2019 8687).