

Pen Pal FAQs

What is the Pen Pal Program? The Pen Pal Program is intended to be a fun way to connect with others through handwritten letters.

Who can participate in the Pen Pal Program? All athletes, Unified partners, coaches, and fans are encouraged to participate.

How will I be matched with a pen pal? Based on the information you provide when you register, SOIA will do its best to match each participant with someone who has similar interests and hobbies. Once a match has been made, both pen pals will be notified via email.

Can I send other things to my pen pal along with a letter? Yes, but that is up to you. (Example: drawings, photos, stickers, birthday cards, etc.)

Should we write or type our letters? If you or your pen pal have difficulty reading each other's letters, you can type your letters on a computer.

I am moving. Who needs to know? Please contact [Dawn Criss](#) to give her your new address.

Will I ever meet my pen pal? You can expect to receive an invitation to a Virtual Pen Pal Celebration next spring. This will be a fun event where you will be able to meet your pen pal and talk with other pen pals from across the state.

How long will the Pen Pal Program last? While participation in the program is at-will, we suggest that participants commit to the program for a minimum of six months to allow the pen pal relationship time to develop.

Who pays for postage? You are responsible for the cost of required postage for mailing your letters.

When can I expect my first letter? We ask that all participants try their best to write their pen pals within two weeks of receiving their initial pen pal match email and any letters they receive from their pen pal.

What should I do if it has been over three weeks and I haven't received a letter?

Please notify SOIA and we will contact your pen pal.

Please contact Dawn Criss, dcriss@soiowa.org, with any questions or program feedback. We want to ensure that all participants have a positive experience!