

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC POLICY MANUAL

Section: **SPORT**
Policy: **Minimum Standards for Competition**
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Competition is a major component of the athlete and coach experience and enables Special Olympics BC participants the opportunity to showcase their skills against athletes of similar ability. However, for a competition to be safe and fair it must meet certain minimum requirements. The following are the minimum standards that must be adhered to when hosting an invitational or open competition.

- All competitions must be sanctioned by Special Olympics BC. Sanctioning for invitational and open competitions can be completed by filling out the sanctioning form available through Special Olympics BC. Please note that sanctioning for regional qualifiers is different and requires a more in-depth process.
- All competitions must have a registration package that is provided to participating Locals that includes registration deadline (no later than one week prior to the event), date of competition, start and finish times, registration fee, address of venues, athlete eligibility, events being offered and schedule, competition rules, if meals are provided, and contact information.
- All competitions must have medical coverage for the duration of the event. Medical coverage can include, but is not limited to, Red Cross first aid trained volunteers, St. John Ambulance volunteers, registered nurses, first-response trained police officers or fire fighters, and BC ambulance employees.
- All competitions must follow the Special Olympics Canada rules and regulations, including divisioning procedures, to ensure athlete safety and that all events are consistent. Special Olympics Canada sport rules can be found on the Special Olympics BC website.
- If meals and snacks are provided, every effort must be made to ensure healthy options are provided.
- All competitions must use facilities that are safe and appropriate for the competition. Facility requirements include separate male and female bathrooms or change rooms, accessibility for athletes with physical disabilities, and comply within reason to Special Olympics Canada facility requirements found in the sport rules.
- Every effort should be made to recruit sufficient numbers of officials who are trained for the level of competition being offered.
- All athletes and coaches should be properly attired based on the Competition & Practice Attire policy. Jeans are not acceptable for any coach or athlete at any competition.

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- Results for the competition should be provided to participating Locals within 14 days from the completion of the event.

All regional qualifiers must meet the above standards as well as those listed in the Regional Qualifier Sanctioning Document which can be found on the Special Olympics BC website In the resources section.