

SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA AND **(INSERT NAME OF CHAPTER)**
ATHLETE IDENTIFICATION FOR COMPETITION SELECTION POLICY

This Policy has been prepared by Special Olympics Canada and is a Pan-Canadian Policy applicable to Special Olympics Canada and its Chapters. This document cannot be modified by a Chapter without consultation and approval from Special Olympics Canada.

EFFECTIVE DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

LAST REVISED: August 6, 2026

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a) *“Athlete”* – an individual registered in activities as an athlete with Special Olympics Canada or a Chapter
 - b) *“Chapter”* – means the Provincial or Territorial Special Olympics Organization recognized by Special Olympics Canada as a provincial or territorial governing body of Special Olympics;
 - c) *“Organization-sanctioned event or activity”* – means any regional, provincial or national games or competitions sanctioned by Special Olympics Canada or a Chapter.
 - d) *“Selection”* – is the result of meeting the criteria for participation.

Purpose

2. This Policy describes how an Athlete may be identified to participate in Organization-sanctioned events or activities (such as games and competitions) at the provincial/territorial and national levels.

Registration

3. To participate in an Organization-sanctioned event or activity, an Athlete must be registered, meet the eligibility requirements in the *Eligibility for Participation Policy*, be **identified** to participate, and be **endorsed** for participation per the *Endorsement and Endorsement Reconsideration Policy*. These terms used throughout this Policy are defined as follows:
 - a) **Eligibility** – an Athlete must meet certain qualifications to be able to participate in an Organization-sanctioned event or activity. Criteria for eligibility may include age, place of residence, ability to travel and participation in the sport at a previous level of competition. Team events have additional eligibility criteria. Out of country events such as World Games also have additional criteria such as: having a valid passport, being able to travel outside Canada, and any other requirements set by the International Organization.
 - b) **Identification** – to be identified to participate in some Organization-sanctioned events or activities, an eligible Athlete must demonstrate certain standards of proficiency in the sport at which the Athlete will be participating. Identification for an Organization-sanctioned event or activity may be limited to a certain number of Athletes or a quota.

- c) **Endorsement** – to be endorsed to attend an Organization-sanctioned event or activity for which an eligible Athlete has been identified, the Athlete must be formally endorsed by the Chapter. Endorsement criteria may include the length of Organization-sanctioned event or activity, the ability to be alone unsupervised, conduct around other participants, etc. and further described in the *Endorsement and Endorsement Reconsideration Policy*

Eligibility

- 4. To be eligible for participation in Organization-sanctioned event and activity, an Athlete must meet the eligibility requirements as described in *Eligibility for Participation Policy*.

Identification

- 5. Identification/Selection criteria for Special Olympic Canada National Teams are described in the *National Team Selection Policy*.
- 6. Athletes identified to participate in an Organization-sanctioned event and activity must be eligible and meet any quota requirements. In addition, individual Athletes and teams of Athletes must meet certain **general identification criteria** (described in the following sections) and sport-specific identification criteria, described in **Appendix A – Sport-Specific Identification Criteria**. This describes sport-specific criteria for *National* competitions. Sport-specific identification criteria for *local and regional* events will be set by the Chapter.
- 7. **General Identification Criteria (Individual Sports)** are described as follows:
 - a) Participants must be eligible for selection (see *Eligibility for Participation Policy*)
 - b) In the case of National Games, Athlete selection will proportionally represent male and female Athletes who participated in the Provincial Games in the year preceding National Games.
 - c) Identification to Provincial/Territorial Games will follow Chapter-specific policies.
 - d) Athletes who compete in lower and middle skill levels have as equal an opportunity to advance to a higher level of competition as those Athletes who have participated in a more advanced skill level. Therefore, Athlete selection is determined by an Athlete's performance relative to their peers of similar skill level and the Special Olympics *Divisioning Policy*. At the National Games, Athletes will be entered into the events they competed in at the Provincial Games.
- 8. **Cancellation of Provincial/Territorial Games (Individual Sports)** - Identification may depend on the results of the Provincial Games. In the event the Provincial/Territorial Games are cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, Athlete identification will be based on their qualifying scores/times/points/distances or other metric as determined by the Chapter. Divisioning will take place based on qualifying scores/times/points/distances and the identification process will take place based on these divisions. Athletes will be eligible to compete in all events in which they were registered to compete at the cancelled Provincial/Territorial Games. To register Athletes at National Games for timed events, each Chapter must submit provincial/territorial qualifying results

or the Athlete's most recent best results based on scores available. Specific sports (e.g., 10 Pin Bowling) may have different or additional submission requirements.

9. ***Cancellation of National Games (Individual Sports)*** - Identification may depend on the results of the National Games. In the event the National Games are cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, Athlete identification will be based on their Provincial/Territorial scores/times/points/distances. Divisioning will take place based on qualifying scores/times/points/distances and the identification process will take place based on these divisions. Athletes will be eligible to compete in all events in which they were registered to compete at the cancelled National Games.
10. ***General Identification Criteria (Team Sports)*** are described as follows:
- a) Participants must be eligible for identification (see *Eligibility for Participation Policy*)
 - b) Teams must be eligible for identification (see *Eligibility for Participation Policy*)
 - c) Generally, team divisions are designated as co-ed and gender identity is not used as a factor in team identification. Similarly, team divisions are comprised of all age groups and age is not used as a factor in team identification.
 - d) Teams that compete in lower and middle skill levels will have as equal an opportunity to advance to a higher level of competition as those teams who participate in a more advanced skill level. To ensure that this opportunity is available, team selection is determined by the team's performance relative to other teams of similar skill level and the Special Olympics *Divisioning Policy*.
 - e) Prior to the start of competition, teams may participate in preliminary matches/games to determine the ability level or division in which they will compete (e.g., preliminary round). During competition, teams may play a round robin tournament or other format to determine seeding (e.g., competition round), and then further matches/games to determine the first, second, third, etc. place teams (e.g., medal round).
11. ***Cancellation of Provincial/Territorial Games (Team Sports)*** – Identification may depend on the results of the Provincial Games. In the event the Provincial Games are cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, team selection will be based on random draw overseen by a scrutineer. Teams will be placed into divisions based on their results at their Provincial/Territorial Qualifier. If there is insufficient quota for all divisions, a random draw overseen by a scrutineer will determine which divisions will advance. One team will be drawn from each division until the quota is full.
12. ***Cancellation of National Games (Team Sports)*** – Identification may depend on the results of the National Games. In the event the National Games are cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, team selection will be based on random draw overseen by a scrutineer. Teams will be placed into divisions based on their results at their Provincial/Territorial Championships. If there is insufficient quota for all divisions, a random draw overseen by a scrutineer will determine which divisions will advance. One team will be drawn from each division until the quota is full.

13. Decisions made by Special Olympics Canada or a Chapter related to the identification of an Athlete or a team can be appealed per the terms of the *Appeal Policy*.

Endorsement

14. Once an eligible Athlete has been identified to attend an Organization-sanctioned event or activity, the Athlete must still be **endorsed** to attend (see *Endorsement and Endorsement Reconsideration Policy*). If the Athlete is endorsed, the selection process is complete.

LEVEL OF COMPETITION

15. *Provincial/Territorial Games* - Chapters will use the following criteria for Athletes to be eligible to participate in Provincial/Territorial Games:
- a) The Athlete must be registered with the Chapter and be in good standing
 - b) The Athlete must meet the age requirements as defined by the Chapter for each event.
 - c) The Athlete must have been training in the sport that they are competing in for a minimum of one competition season (or greater, per Chapter discretion) prior to the Provincial/Territorial Games. This training must include participation in the sanctioned sport specific program within their District/Community.
 - d) The Athlete must have competed in one qualifying event as sanctioned by the Provincial/Territorial Chapter one program year preceding the Provincial/Territorial Games.
16. *National Games* – In addition to the requirements defined in the above two sections, Chapters will follow the following criteria for Athletes to be eligible to participate in the National Games:
- a) The Athlete must have competed in the most recent Provincial qualifying Championships/Games preceding the National Games in that sport
 - b) The Athlete must be willing to commit to the Chapter's team training the year leading up to National Games
 - c) Athletes can only compete in National Games in events they competed in at Provincial/Territorial Games or qualifying event
 - d) Athlete must meet the minimum age requirement of 14 years old
17. *World Games* – In addition to the requirements defined in the above sections, SOC will follow the following criteria for Athletes to be eligible to participate in the World Games:
- a) The Athlete must have competed in the most recent National Games preceding the World Games in that sport
 - b) The Athlete must be willing to commit to the National Team Training Program as defined by SOC
 - c) Athletes will compete in events identified by the World Games age and registration categories Athlete must meet the minimum age requirement of 15 years old

Appendix A – Sport-Specific Identification Criteria for Special Olympics Canada Official Sports

Updated July 2025

*This Appendix describes sport-specific identification criteria for **National and World** competitions in SOC official sports. Sport-specific identification criteria for **local, regional and provincial/territorial** events are determined by each Chapter and are generally similar to the criteria described herein. Quotas for each sport are determined by the relevant Special Olympics body. This may include but not be limited to gender and/or registration categories.*

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING, SNOWSHOEING, SPEED SKATING, SWIMMING AND ATHLETICS

Quota Process

1. Quota:
 - a. The number of identified Athletes per sport will be based on the total number of eligible spots per applicable sport as determined by the sport's governing body.

Identification Criteria

2. Athletes will be ranked based on the following criteria within their applicable sport:
 - a. Athlete will be awarded points based on their performance at the Special Olympics Canada National Games as follows:

1 st Place	10 Points
2 nd Place	8 Points
3 rd Place	6 Points
4 th Place	4 Points
5 th Place	2 Points
6 th – 8 th Place	0 Points
 - b. All points scored will be accumulated and divided by the number of events the Athlete entered. If an Athlete cannot compete in an event(s) for medical reasons, that event(s) will not be used in the calculation of average number of points. (Medical reasons and scratches must be approved by the Physician designated by the applicable Games Committee).
 - c. Averaged scores will be ranked highest to lowest. Athletes will be identified using their rankings and the quota process stated above. In the case of a tie, the following tie-breaking criteria will be implemented:
 - i. The Athlete with the most gold medals will be identified; if there is still a tie,
 - ii. The Athlete with the most silver medals will be identified; if there is still a tie,
 - iii. The Athlete with the most bronze medals will be identified; if there is still a tie,
 - iv. The Athlete with the next highest ranking will be identified; if there is still a tie,
 - v. A random draw will be used between those athletes still tied.

PENTATHLON

Quota for Pentathlon

1. The number of identified Athletes for Pentathlon will be determined as follows:
 - a. The quota allotted to Pentathlon will be reflective of the percentage of Athletes who participated in the Pentathlon at Provincial/Territorial Games or Special Olympics Canada National Games. For example for World Games, if 6% of Athletes at the National Games were Pentathletes and Special Olympics Canada received a total Athlete quota from the World Governing Body of twenty (20), then Pentathletes would be awarded $0.06 \times 20 = 1.2$ quota Athletes for Pentathlon – thereby one (1) Athlete would be identified for the pentathlon.
2. Athlete selection for Pentathlon will be as follows:
 - a. Athletes will be awarded points for their placement in each of the five pentathlon events as follows:

1 st Place	10 Points
2 nd Place	8 Points
3 rd Place	6 Points
4 th Place	4 Points
5 th Place	2 Points
6 th – 8 th Place	0 Points
 - b. Scores will be ranked highest to lowest. Athletes will be identified using their rankings starting with the Athlete with the highest points. In the case of a tie, the following tie-breaking criteria will be implemented:
 - i. The Athlete with the most first place finishes will be identified; if there is still a tie,
 - ii. The Athlete with the most second place finishes will be identified; if there is still a tie,
 - iii. The Athlete with the most third place finishes will be identified; if there is still a tie,
 - iv. The Athlete with the next highest ranking will be identified.

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

Quota for Rhythmic Gymnastics (Singles Competition)

1. The number of identified Athletes for Rhythmic Gymnastics (Singles Competition) will be determined as follows:
 - a. Total number of eligible spots per applicable sport will be determined by the sport's governing body.

Identification Criteria for Rhythmic Gymnastics (Singles Competition)

2. Rhythmic Gymnastics Athletes will be identified as follows:
 - a. Athletes will be awarded points for their placement in each of the four rhythmic gymnastics disciplines as follows:

1 st Place	10 Points
2 nd Place	8 Points
3 rd Place	6 Points
4 th Place	4 Points
5 th Place	2 Points
6 th – 8 th Place	0 Points

- b. Scores will be ranked highest to lowest within each level. Athletes will be identified using their rankings starting with the Athlete with the highest points in each level.
- c. If the quota given to Special Olympics Canada or the applicable Chapter is greater than four (4), then the 2nd place finishers with the highest points (across levels) will be identified.
- d. In the case of a tie, the following tie-breaking criteria will be implemented:
 - i. The Athlete with the most first place finishes will be identified; if there is still a tie,
 - ii. The Athlete with the most second place finishes will be identified; if there is still a tie,
 - iii. The Athlete with the most third place finishes will be identified; if there is still a tie,
 - iv. The Athlete with the next highest ranking will be identified.

POWERLIFTING

Quota for Powerlifting

1. The number of identified Athletes for Powerlifting will be determined as follows:
 - a. Total number of eligible spots are determined by the sport's governing body.

Identification Criteria for Powerlifting

2. Powerlifting Athletes will be identified as follows:
 - a. Athletes with the highest quantitative score, which are based on their accrued points as per the IPF GL Formula for both male and female Athletes, will be identified first (best overall lifters).
 - b. The deadlift and bench press portion of the competition are the lifts that shall be used as the basis for an Athlete's quantitative score.
 - c. The formula described in subsection 2(a) will be used to determine the best overall lifter of different weight classes.

10 PIN BOWLING

Quota for 10 Pin Bowling

1. The number of identified Athletes for 10 Pin Bowling will be determined as follows:
 - a. Total number of eligible spots are determined by the sport's governing body.

Identification Criteria for 10 Pin Bowling

2. 10 Pin Bowling Athletes will be identified as follows:
 - a. Athletes will be ranked highest to lowest within each division based on their flat score from the All-Event Competition (nine games)
 - b. The 1st place Athlete(s) from each division will be identified, followed by the 2nd place Athlete(s) across divisions until all the quotas have been filled
 - c. In the event that the total number of quotas given is less than an equal distribution among eligible Athletes who have the same placing, the process for selecting Athletes for advancement will be through random draw from all eligible Athletes who have the same placing: starting with all 1st place Athlete(s), followed by all second place Athlete(s), and then all 3rd place Athlete(s).

ALPINE SKIING

Quota for Alpine Skiing

1. The number of identified Athletes for Alpine Skiing will be determined as follows:
 - a. Total number of eligible spots are determined by the sport's governing body.
 - b. Athletes will be identified from each of the levels (novice, intermediate, advanced). The representation from each level will be proportional based on registration statistics at the National Games.

Identification Criteria for Alpine Skiing

2. Alpine Skiing Athletes will be identified as follows:
 - a. Athletes will be awarded points based on their performance in the three official Alpine Skiing events (giant slalom, slalom and super giant slalom) as follows:

1 st Place	10 Points
2 nd Place	8 Points
3 rd Place	6 Points
4 th Place	4 Points
5 th Place	2 Points
6 th – 8 th Place	0 Points
 - b. As it is mandatory that every Athlete compete in all three events, Athletes will be ranked based on their total accumulated score.
 - c. In the case of a tie, the following tie-breaking criteria will be implemented:
 - i. The Athlete with the most gold medals will be identified; if there is still a tie,
 - ii. The Athlete with the most silver medals will be identified; if there is still a tie,
 - iii. The Athlete with the most bronze medals will be identified.
 - iv. A random draw will be used between those athletes still tied.

Note: Downhill (a fourth Alpine Skiing event) may be an event at National Games. However, the results from the event would not count towards identification. Athletes do not need to qualify in the downhill in order to attend the World Games. Despite not qualifying in the downhill, Athletes identified to move onto the World Games will be eligible to compete in the downhill event at the World Games

FIGURE SKATING

Quota for Figure Skating

1. The number of identified Athletes for Figure Skating will be determined as follows:
 - a. Total number of eligible spots are determined by the sport's governing body.

Identification Criteria for Figure Skating

2. Figure Skating Athletes will be identified based on **Freestyle Singles event** as follows:
 - a. Scores will be ranked highest to lowest within each level. Athletes will be identified using their rankings starting with the Athlete with the highest points in each level.
 - b. If the quota given to Special Olympics Canada is less than the number of 1st place Athletes the process for selecting Athletes for advancement will be through a random draw from all 1st place Athlete(s).
 - c. If the quota given to Special Olympics Canada is greater than the number of 1st place Athletes identified in section (a) all 1st place Athletes will be selected for advancement and then the remaining quota will be selected through a random draw from all 2nd place Athlete(s) from each division, continuing through all levels until all the quotas are filled.

Note: Athletes selected in Freestyle Singles that have competed in Ice Dancing, Ice Dancing Pairs or Pairs will be eligible to compete in these events at the next level of competition.

GOLF

Quota for Golf

1. The number of identified Athletes for golf will be determined as follows:
 - a. Total number of eligible spots are determined by the sport's governing body.

Identification Criteria for Golf

2. Golf Athletes will be identified as follows:
 - a. Athletes will be ranked highest to lowest within each division based on their flat score, an accumulation of the score for all rounds of competition at the National Games.
 - b. Athletes must have an average of 70 or below (9 hole competition) or an average of 120 or lower for level 5/18 holes
 - c. The top ranked Athlete(s) from each division will be identified.
 - d. In the case of a tie within a division, the following tie-breaking criteria will be implemented:
 - i. The player with the fewest number of 10x scores takes the lead over the other Athlete(s); if there is still a tie,
 - ii. The player with the best score for the last 9 holes takes the lead over the other Athlete(s); if there is still a tie,
 - iii. The player with the best score for the last 6 holes takes the lead over the other Athlete(s) ; if there is still a tie,
 - iv. The player with the best score for the last 3 holes takes the lead over the other Athlete(s) ; if there is still a tie,
 - v. The player with the best score for the last hole takes the lead over the other Athlete(s).
 - e. In the event that the total number of quotas given is less than an equal distribution among eligible Athletes who have the same placing, the process for selecting Athletes for advancement will be through random draw from all eligible Athletes who have the same placing: starting with all 1st place Athlete(s), followed by all 2nd place Athlete(s), and then all 3rd place Athlete(s).

BOCCE

Quota for Bocce

1. The number of identified Athletes for bocce will be determined as follows:
 - a. Total number of eligible spots are determined by the sport's governing body.

Identification Criteria for Bocce

2. Bocce Athletes will be identified as follows:
 - a. The 1st place Athlete from each division will be identified.
 - b. If the quota given to Special Olympics Canada is less than the number of 1st place Athletes from each division, the process for selecting Athletes for advancement will be through a random draw from all 1st place Athlete(s).
 - c. If the quota given to Special Olympics Canada is greater than the number of 1st place Athletes than the process for selecting Athletes for advancement will be through a random draw from all 2nd place Athlete(s) until all the quotas are filled.

TEAM SPORTS (BASKETBALL, FLOOR HOCKEY, SOCCER, SOFTBALL AND FLOORBALL)

Quota for Team Sports (Basketball, Floor Hockey, Soccer, Floorball and Softball)

1. The number of identified teams will be determined as follows:
 - a. Total number of eligible spots are determined by the sports' governing bodies.

Identification Criteria for Team Sports

2. Identification criteria:
 - a. If the quota allotted is one team, first place teams in all divisions will be considered.
 - b. The process for selecting the team for advancement will be through a random draw from all 1st place team(s).
 - c. If the quota is greater than one (1), the above process will be followed until all quotas are filled.

Three Player Pick-up (Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Floorball and Floor Hockey)

- 1) In case of player illness or injury after the final team roster has been submitted, teams will be permitted to pick up a maximum of three (3) additional players who participated during the qualifying for each competitive stage (Regional, Provincial, National).

These additional 'pick-up' players must also meet the Athlete eligibility criteria outlined in this policy.

- 2) If a team competes at the national qualifying competition with less than the maximum allowable number of players that Team can pick-up up a maximum of three (3) Athletes who participated at the national qualifying competition in that sport.

These additional 'pick-up' players must also meet the Athlete eligibility criteria as outlined in this Policy.

- 3) If a team requires more than three (3) players to meet the player requirement (as established by their team roster used at the qualifying event) the team will then be rendered ineligible to attend the World Games.

5 PIN BOWLING

Quota for 5 Pin Bowling

1. The number of identified Athletes for 5 Pin Bowling will be determined as follows:
 - a. Total number of eligible spots are determined by the applicable Games Organizing Committee

Identification Criteria for 5 Pin Bowling

2. 5 Pin Bowling Athletes will be identified as follows:
 - a. Athletes will be ranked highest to lowest within each division based on their flat score from the “All-Event Competition” (nine games)
 - b. The 1st place Athlete(s) from each division will be identified, followed by the 2nd place Athlete(s) across divisions until all the quotas have been filled
 - c. In the event that the total number of quotas given is less than an equal distribution among eligible Athletes who have the same placing, the process for selecting Athletes for advancement will be through random draw from all eligible Athletes who have the same placing: starting with all 1st place Athlete(s), followed by all second place Athlete(s), and then all 3rd place Athlete(s).

CURLING

Quota for Curling

1. The number of identified teams will be determined as follows:
 - a. Total number of eligible spots are determined by the applicable Games Organizing Committee

Identification Criteria for Curling

2. Identification criteria:
 - a. If the quota allotted is one team, first place teams in all divisions will be considered.
 - b. The process for selecting the team for advancement will be through a random draw from all 1st place team(s).
 - c. If the quota is greater than one (1), the above process will be followed until all quotas are filled.

Two Player Pick-up

- 1) In case of player illness or injury after the final team roster has been submitted, teams will be permitted to pick up a maximum of two (2) additional players who participated during the qualifying competition.

These additional 'pick-up' players must also meet the Athlete eligibility criteria outlined in this policy.
