

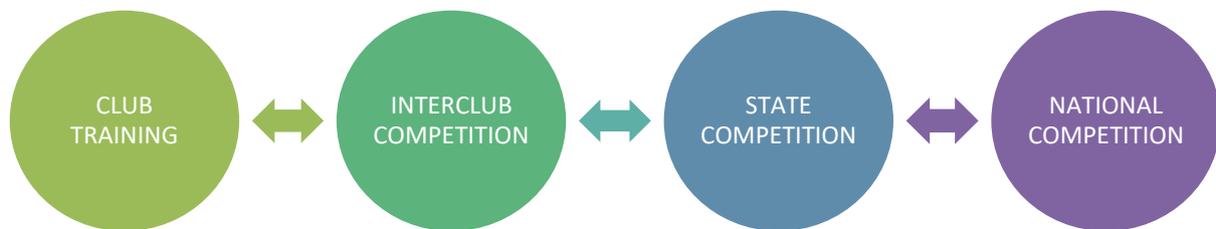
Special Olympics Australia's selection process is governed by Article 1 of the Special Olympics international sports rules.

Fundamental Principle

Athletes of all ability levels have an equal opportunity to advance to the next higher-level competition provided the sport and event are offered at the next higher level of competition.

Eligibility for Advancement

An athlete is eligible to advance to the next competition provided she or he has participated in the previous level of competition



Training and competition must be in the same sport the athlete will participate in at the next level of competition.

If additional events within that sport are available at the next level of competition, athletes must be coached and train to competition level in that event.

Procedure for Athlete, Team and Coach Selection

The State or National program must publish the process and criteria in advance.

The Accredited Program (SOA), working with the GOC, determines the number of athletes or teams that will be allowed to participate in the competition in question by sport and/or event. This is the quota to be filled.

The Accredited Program identifies the number of athletes eligible for advancement within the sport and/or event-based on membership and participation in competition at the lower level.

If the number of eligible athletes does not exceed the quota, all athletes and teams shall advance.

If the number of eligible athletes exceeds the quota, athletes that advance shall be selected as follows:

In Individual sports, priority is given to first-place finishers from all divisions of the sport and/or event. If the number of first-place finishers exceeds the quota, athletes will be selected to advance by random draw.

If there are not enough first-place finishers to fill the quota, all first-place finishers shall advance. The remaining quota shall be filled by a random draw of second-place finishers from all divisions of the sport and/or event.

If the quota is large enough for all second-place finishers to advance, the remaining quota shall be filled by a random draw of third-place finishers from all divisions of the sport and/or event.

Repeating this process, adding each place of finish as necessary, until the quota is filled.

For Team Sports a team will be selected from each division and will include athletes of similar ability.

All athletes at the competition of team sports will be eligible for selection from all teams in the competition irrespective of the placing of that team or teams.

A random draw of teams from each division shall take place to determine which team or teams shall advance to the next level of competition.

In the case of nominated divisions offered by the GOC at the next level of competition, a team or teams from that division offered shall advance.

Accredited programs are encouraged to develop selection criteria for coaches based on certification, technical background and practical experience that will enhance the competitive experience of Special Olympics athletes. SOI (Special Olympics International) shall have the right to review a Program's selection criteria.

Adherence

The criterion for athlete advancement is an essential component of the Special Olympics movement. Under extraordinary circumstances when the criteria cannot be met, the authority to deviate from established procedures may be requested from Special Olympics International, provided the alternate selection procedures do not conflict with the Fundamental Principle of athlete advancement.

Accredited Programs may request authorisation From Special Olympics International to add additional criteria for advancement based on behaviour, medical or judicial considerations and/or to deviate from these advancement procedures due to the size or nature of their Program.

Selections Q&A

Q: How is a quota worked out?

A: The quota (number of athletes allocated) is based on the capacity of the event i.e. How many beds, how many sports on offer etc.? This is then split between each state by sport and by gender.

Q: Who is eligible to be selected?

A: Any registered athlete that competes at the nominated selection event and has competed in the previous level of competition.

Q: How are the selections conducted?

A: For individual events (e.g: swimming, athletics) the event winner or gold medallist from every division goes into a random draw. If the quota (number of athletes allocated) is more than the number of gold medallists, then silver medallists from every division go into a random draw and so on. For Team events, several teams are selected (a minimum of 1) from each division. Each team is filled with athletes of similar ability from each division. Each team goes into a random draw to fill the team quota (number of teams allocated). In the case where the Games Organising Committee has predetermined and requested a team from a division, a team is formed by athletes of similar ability from that division.

Q: Have we added additional criteria for advancement or selection?

A: Yes, post the selection event an endorsement process takes place based on medical and behavioural issues. Both the athletes and coaches are subject to this endorsement process.

Q: Who does all this?

A: In the case of state teams, the State Committee forms a selection committee and maintains the selection process. Their role is to make sure all rules are followed, and the process is impartial, particularly around random draws. In the case of a National Team, there is a National Selection Committee in place. All selections follow the same process. For a state team, the State Chair signs off on the selection process. For a National team, Special Olympics Australia's Chief Executive Officer signs off on the selection process.

Q: Can athletes go to the National Games and World Games more than once?

A: Yes. As per Article 1 of the General Rules all athletes are eligible as long as they have met the criteria.

Q: Why do the same athletes seem to go all the time, particularly in team sports?

A: Selections are done impartially and/or by random draw. Every selector knows that they cannot consider an athlete's representative history as this goes against Article 1. Programs with a small number of participants may exacerbate this view.

Q: Who carries out team selections?

In the case of a state team.

A: 1. The head coach selected to the next level of competition. 2. Someone who is not connected, who is impartial and is an expert in that sport. 3. The state sports coordinator.

In the case of a national team.

A: 1. The heads coach selected to the next level of competition. 2. Someone who is not connected, who is impartial and is an expert in that sport 3. A member of the National selection committee.

The members involved in team selection may consult with other coaches or officials during the process.