

POLICY INTENT:

Special Olympics Manitoba has the responsibility to organize, develop and select athletes and teams to represent Special Olympics Manitoba at National Games (winter and summer). This policy sets Special Olympics Manitoba's procedures governing the selection of athletes to the Provincial Team which will compete at the National Games.

APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY:

This Policy applies to all athletes seeking selection to the Special Olympics Manitoba Provincial Team and those athletes selected to the Special Olympics Manitoba Provincial Team.

COMMUNICATION OF THIS POLICY:

This Policy will be published on the Special Olympics Manitoba's website and communicated to all Regions, and will be made available at Provincial Games. Any amendments to this Policy will be immediately posted on the Special Olympics Manitoba's website and communicated to all Regions via email.

SELECTION COMMITTEE:

The Board of Directors of Special Olympics Manitoba has delegated the authority for all decision-making under this Policy to the Selection Committee which is composed as follows: a) Vice-President of Sport and Programs; b) Two (2) individuals appointed by the Special Olympics Manitoba Regional Leadership Council.

TEAM SIZE:

Team size will be dictated by the Governing Body of the National Event (Special Olympics Canada). When this is not the case, the Selection Committee will have the discretion to name a larger team that will include a greater number of athletes, or to name a smaller team due to resource constraints.

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible to be considered for selection to the Provincial Team, an athlete must:

- Be a registered athlete in good standing with Special Olympics Manitoba;
- Be regularly active in a Special Olympics' program;
- Be thirteen (13) years of age or older, as of January 1st in the year of the National Games;
- Have been training in the sport that they are seeking selection for a minimum of one (1) sport seasons;
- Have competed in the sport that they are seeking selection at the Special Olympics Manitoba Provincial Games immediately preceding the National Games;
- Is able to cope under a four athlete to one coach ratio;
- Be a permanent resident of Manitoba or a landed immigrant;
- Endorsed by their Region, or the Selection Committee, in accordance with this Policy;
- Be eligible to participate as per the rules of the National Games.

SELECTION PROCESS:

Upon completion of the Special Olympics Manitoba Provincial Games, the Selection Committee will select athletes (hereinafter "Qualified Athletes") for potential selection to the Provincial Team in accordance with the following sport specific quotas and criteria defined in Appendix A, subject to endorsement as described in this Policy.

REGIONAL POST COMPETITION QUESTIONNAIRE AND ENDORSEMENT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Upon being considered for selection as a Qualified Athlete, Special Olympics Manitoba will notify the applicable Region (no later than two (2) weeks following the Special Olympics Manitoba Provincial Games) and seek a Post Competition Questionnaire and Endorsement (attached here as Appendix "B") of their Qualified Athletes in accordance with this Policy.

Each Region will notify Special Olympics Manitoba the name of their person who has the overall responsibility for ensuring the completion of the Post Competition Questionnaire and Endorsement. All Post Competition Questionnaire and Endorsement documents must be submitted to Special Olympics Manitoba no later than one (1) month of receiving the Qualified Athlete list.

The Post Competition Questionnaire and Endorsement documents are to be signed by at least two (2) individuals (Regional chef de mission, coaches and/or mission staff).

The decision to endorse or not is a decision which should be determined between the Qualified Athlete, any applicable caregiver, coach and Region and may consider the following criteria:

Conduct:

- The athlete's ability to cope with the pressures involved in training, traveling, competing and being removed from their usual environment for long periods of time (approximately 8 days).
- The athlete's ability to adapt socially to the games environment.

Travel and Accommodations:

- The athlete's ability to be out of the province, away from their families, friends, jobs, etc. for long periods of time.
- The athlete's ability to cope without access to their parents/guardians/caregivers during competition as such people are not permitted in the athletes' village or field of play.
- The athlete's ability to cope with travel, including air travel.

Training:

- The athlete is actively and regularly training.
- The athlete is able to maintain a regular training schedule which requires training a minimum of three (3) times per week.
- The athlete's ability to attend all required training camps.

General:

- The athlete has valid government issued identification.
- The athlete has acquired a physician's signature verifying the athlete's health in order to attend a Provincial or National sporting event on the form provided (National Games Medical Form).

A Qualified Athlete will either be endorsed by their Region or not. If the Qualified Athlete is endorsed, the Qualified Athlete will be selected to the Provincial Team, in accordance with this Policy.

In the event that the Qualified Athlete is not endorsed by their Region the following steps will be implemented:

- The Region will summarize the information collected, including the Post Competition Questionnaire and Endorsement, and submit a report to the Selection Committee.
- Special Olympics Manitoba may seek a legal opinion if deemed appropriate.
- The Selection Committee may overrule the Region's non-endorsement resulting in selection to the Provincial Team or uphold the non-endorsement of the Qualified Athlete. If the Selection Committee upholds the non-endorsement, the qualified Athlete (appropriate person) will be notified of the Special Olympics Manitoba Appeal Policy.

In the event that a Qualified Athlete is not endorsed, the next highest ranked endorsed Qualified Athlete will be selected to the Provincial Team.

EXCEPTIONS:

If unforeseen circumstances arise which do not allow for this selection process or its timelines to be implemented as planned, the Selection Committee reserves the right to identify an alternate process or alternate timelines. Should this occur, all eligible athletes will be notified of these changes in a timely manner.

In the event that the Special Olympics Manitoba Provincial Games are cancelled for any reason, the Selection Committee will utilize the results from previously identified Games qualifying events. In the case of Team Sports, the Selection Committee will select those teams by drawing from a hat.

ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS TO REMAIN SELECTED AND REMOVAL:

Upon selection and in order to remain on the Provincial Team an athlete must:

- Sign an Athlete Agreement,
- Provide to Special Olympics Manitoba all required documents (medical forms, registration forms, athlete agreement, copy of government-issued identification, etc.),
- Participate in all team events, activities and meetings,
- Obey all rules established by Special Olympics Manitoba,
- Assist Special Olympics Manitoba in public relations and fundraising projects where required.

Once selected to a team, an athlete may withdraw or be withdrawn for the following reasons:

- Not satisfying the minimum training standards set out by the Head Coach;
- Failure to adhere to team rules and the Special Olympics Manitoba's Code of Conduct and other policies;
- Remain competitive-ready leading up to the event. Athletes who do not remain competitive-ready by reason of lack of fitness, injury or illness may be removed from the team. It is the obligation of the athlete to immediately report any injury, illness or change in training that could affect their ability to compete at their highest level.
- Voluntary withdrawal/retirement;
- Fraudulent misrepresentation.

Prior to competition, where an athlete is unable to meet training standards, competitive readiness, violates team rules or the code of conduct or provides fraudulent misrepresentations, the Selection Committee will have the discretion to remove the athlete from the Team, provided the athlete is given an opportunity to be heard, and to replace the athlete with another suitable candidate. The Selection Committee will notify the athlete in writing that he/she has been removed from the team and reasons for the removal.

During National Games, the Provincial Team Program Management Team may make decisions to remove or discipline an athlete in the best interests of the Provincial Team. (This section is further defined in the Special Olympics Manitoba Discipline and Complaints Policy)

APPEALS:

Any appeal against a decision of the Selection Committee can be made in accordance with the Special Olympics Manitoba's Appeals Policy.

APPENDIX A

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MANITOBA PROVINCIAL TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING, SNOWSHOEING, SPEED SKATING, SWIMMING and ATHLETICS:

Quota Process:

The number of selected athletes per sport will be determined as follows:

- Total number of eligible spots per applicable sport will be determined by Special Olympics Canada
- The total number of eligible spots per sport will be proportionately split between men and women; in the case of only one eligible spot or an odd number of eligible spots per sport, the lone spot will be awarded to the highest or next ranked athlete regardless of gender.

Selection Criteria:

Athletes will be ranked based on the following criteria within their applicable sport:

Athlete will be awarded points based on their performance at the Special Olympics Manitoba Provincial 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

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 Doctor designated by the applicable Games Committee).

Averaged scores will be ranked highest to lowest. Athletes will be selected using their rankings and the quota process stated above. In the case of a tie, the following tie-breaking criteria will be implemented:

- The athlete with the most gold medals will be selected; if there is still a tie,
- The athlete with the most silver medals will be selected; if there is still a tie,
- The athlete with the most bronze medals will be selected; if there is still a tie,
- The athlete with the next highest ranking will be selected; if there is still a tie,
- The athlete who competed in the least represented events will be selected.

Athlete selection for Pentathlon will be as follows:

- Athletes will be awarded points for their placement in each of the five pentathlon events

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

- Scores will be ranked highest to lowest. Athletes will be selected 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
 - The athlete with the most first place finishes will be selected; if there is still a tie,
 - The athlete with the most second place finishes will be selected; if there is still a tie,
 - The athlete with the most third place finishes will be selected; if there is still a tie,
 - The athlete with the next highest ranking will be selected

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS:

Quota for Rhythmic Gymnastics (Singles Competition)

The number of selected athletes for Rhythmic Gymnastics (Singles Competition) will be determined as follows:

- Total number of eligible spots per applicable sport will be determined by Special Olympics Canada.

Selection Criteria for Rhythmic Gymnastics (Singles Competition)

Rhythmic Gymnastics Athletes will be selected as follows:

- Athletes will be awarded points for their placement in each of the four rhythmic gymnastics disciplines

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
- Scores will be ranked highest to lowest within each level. Athletes will be selected using their rankings starting with the athlete with the highest points in each level
- If the quota given to Special Olympics Manitoba is greater than four (4), then the 2nd place finishers with the highest points (across all levels) will be selected
- In the case of a tie, the following tie-breaking criteria will be implemented
 - The athlete with the most first place finishes will be selected; if there is still a tie,
 - The athlete with the most second place finishes will be selected; if there is still a tie,
 - The athlete with the most third place finishes will be selected; if there is still a tie,
 - The athlete with the next highest ranking will be selected

POWERLIFTING:

Quota for Powerlifting:

The number of selected athletes for Powerlifting will be determined as follows:

- Total number of eligible spots are determined by Special Olympics Canada.
- Total number of eligible spots will be split equally between men and women; in the case of only one eligible spot or an odd number of eligible spots per sport, the lone spot will be awarded to the highest or next ranked athlete regardless of gender.

Selection Criteria for Powerlifting:

Powerlifting athletes will be selected as follows:

- Athletes with the highest quantitative score, which are based on their accrued points as per the Wilkes Formula for both male and female athletes, will be selected first (best overall lifters).
- 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.
- The formula described in subsection "a" will be used to determine the best overall lifter of different weight classes.

10 PIN BOWLING:

Quota for 10 Pin Bowling:

The number of selected athletes for 10 Pin Bowling will be determined as follows:

- Total number of eligible spots are determined by Special Olympics Canada.
- The total number of eligible spots will be split equally between men and women; in the case of only one eligible spot or an odd number of eligible spots per sport, the lone spot will be awarded to the highest or next ranked athlete regardless of gender.

Selection Criteria for 10 Pin Bowling:

10 Pin Bowling athletes will be selected as follows:

- Athletes will be ranked highest to lowest within each division based on their flat score from the "Individual Competition" (three games)
- The 1st place athlete(s) from each division will be selected, followed by the 2nd place athlete(s) across divisions until all the quotas have been filled.
- 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 of 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).

5 PIN BOWLING:

Quota for 5 Pin Bowling:

The number of selected athletes for 5 Pin Bowling will be determined as follows:

- Total number of eligible spots are determined by Special Olympics Canada.
- The total number of eligible spots will be split equally between men and women; in the case of only one eligible spot or an odd number of eligible spots per sport, the lone spot will be awarded to the highest or next ranked athlete regardless of gender..

Selection Criteria for 5 Pin Bowling:

5 Pin Bowling athletes will be selected as follows:

- Athletes will be ranked highest to lowest POA within the following average categories: 99 & under, 100-109, 110-119, 120-129, 130+ for all games at the Provincial Games
- If the quota is one team it will be a mixed team, if two teams one male and one female team will be selected. Subsequent quotas will consist of a male, a female and mixed team necessary to fill the quota

In the case of a tie, the following tie breaking criteria will be implemented:

- Highest scratch score
- Highest POA in a single game.
- Draw from a hat.

ALPINE SKIING:

Quota for Alpine Skiing:

The number of selected athletes for Alpine Skiing will be determined as follows:

- Total number of eligible spots are determined by Special Olympics Canada
- The total number of eligible spots will be split equally between men and women; in the case of only one eligible spot or an odd number of eligible spots per sport, the lone spot will be awarded to the highest or next ranked athlete regardless of gender.
- Athletes will be selected from each of the levels (novice, intermediate, advanced). The representation from each level will be proportional based on registration statistics at the Provincial Games.

Selection Criteria for Alpine Skiing:

Alpine Skiing athletes will be selected as follows:

- Athletes will be awarded points based on their performance in the four official Alpine Skiing events (downhill, 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

- As it is mandatory that every athlete compete in all four events, athletes will be ranked based on their total accumulated score.
- In the case of a tie, the following tie-breaking criteria will be implemented:
 - The athlete with the most gold medals will be selected; if there is still a tie,
 - The athlete with the most silver medals will be selected; if there is still a tie,
 - The athlete with the most bronze medals will be selected.

FIGURE SKATING:

Quota for Figure Skating:

The number of selected athletes for Figure Skating will be determined as follows:

- Total number of eligible spots are determined by Special Olympics Canada
- The total number of eligible spots will be split equally between men and women; in the case of only one eligible spot or an odd number of eligible spots per sport, the lone spot will be awarded to the highest or next ranked athlete regardless of gender.

Selection Criteria for Figure Skating:

Figure Skating athletes will be selected as follows:

Categories include Pairs, Ice-Dance and Singles

- Calculate the % of athletes per category
- The minimum % required for a category to be guaranteed a quota shall be 15%
- If there are 15% or higher in the Pairs and Ice Dance events, the event with the highest participation will be selected first. If these two events are tied, the Pairs will be selected first. The Gold Medal winners in the highest level within that event will be selected first.
- If the Pairs or Ice Dance athletes who have been selected have also competed in Singles, they will automatically be permitted to skate in the singles competition.
- All remaining quotas will be filled with the Singles event skaters. The Singles skaters will be selected using the Gold Medal winners from each level. In order to ensure all ability levels have an opportunity to advance, whenever possible there will be at least 2 Gold Medal winners selected from the Singles levels 1-2 group, and the Singles levels 3-6 group.
- Remaining Singles quota will be selected from individual categories ranked highest to lowest % and not already represented by a Gold Medal winner.
- If in subsection "c" there is not sufficient % to guarantee a quota allotment in Pairs, Ice-Dance or both, athletes who have been selected based on their Singles event will be permitted to skate in these events if they have done so at the Provincial Games.

GOLF:

Quota for Golf:

The number of selected athletes for golf will be determined as follows:

- Total number of eligible spots are determined by Special Olympics Canada.
- The total number of eligible spots per sport will be proportionately split between men and women.

Selection Criteria for Golf:

Golf athletes will be selected as follows:

- 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 Provincial Games.
- Athletes must have an average of 70 or below (9 hole competition).
- The top ranked athlete(s) from each division will be selected.
- In the case of a tie within a division, the following tie-breaking criteria will be implemented:
 - The player with the best score for the last 9 holes takes the lead over the other athlete(s)
 - The player with the best score for the last 6 holes takes the lead over the other athlete(s)
 - The player with the best score for the last 3 holes takes the lead over the other athlete(s)
 - The player with the best score for the last hole takes the lead over the other athlete(s)
- 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).

TEAM SPORTS INCLUDING BASKETBALL, FLOOR HOCKEY, CURLING, SOCCER AND SOFTBALL

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

The number of selected teams will be determined as follows:

- Total number of eligible spots are determined by Special Olympics Canada.

Selection Criteria for Team Sports:

- If the quota allotted is one team, first place teams in all divisions will be considered and a random draw will take place to select the team for advancement.
- 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 & Floor Hockey):

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 Provincial competition.

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

If a team competes at the Provincial qualifying competition with less than the maximum allowable number of players that Team can pick-up up a maximum of three athletes who participated at the Provincial qualifying competition.

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

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 National Games.

BOCCE:

Quota for Bocce:

The number of selected athletes for bocce will be determined as follows:

- Total number of eligible spots are determined by Special Olympics Canada.
- The total number of eligible spots will be split equally between men and women; in the case of only one eligible spot or an odd number of eligible spots per sport, the lone spot will be awarded to the highest or next ranked athlete regardless of gender.

Selection Criteria for Bocce:

Bocce athletes will be selected as follows:

- The 1st place athlete from each division will be selected.
- If the quota given 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).
- If the quota given is great than the number of 1st place athletes then 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.