## Special Olympics Divisioning

Like all athletes, Special Olympics athletes love the thrill of competition and pushing their limits to achieve a new personal best.


Special Olympics uses a unique system called 'divisioning' to give athletes of all abilities the chance for exciting competition.


Coaches submit a time or distance for each athlete in individual sports


For team and judged sports, coaches submit athlete or team ratings and/or skills assessments

Stage 2 usually happens in the opening days of World Games


Athletes or teams are grouped into competitive divisions according to three criteria

## HOW MANY ATHLETES OR TEAMS ARE IN A DIVISION?



## HOW ARE DIVISIONS SET?

There should be no more than a

$$
15 \%
$$

difference between the most highly skilled athlete or team and the lowest skilled athlete or team in each division

WHY DIVISIONING?


Divisioning makes Special Olympics competitions fair, empowering and exciting

An evenly matched competition makes athletes and teams try harder -- and push farther. It's about athletes rising to a challenge - and giving it their all! All they need to do ... is THEIR very best.


