

Special Olympics General Rules 2012 Amendment

16th November 2012

Special Olympics



Background



The General Rules 2012 Amendment reflects our expansion and broader reach

The Amendment was agreed as part of a collaborative and movement wide process

Background



- Working group with representatives from each region
– met every week from Nov 2010 to Mar 2011
- Prepared recommendations to the CEO, amendment ratified by the Board of Special Olympics in Feb 2012



Preamble



A new preamble has been added to introduce the fundamental purpose of Special Olympics, guiding principles and key relationships we have with partners such as the IOC and Sports Federations.

Structure



Structure: The Special Olympics Official General Rules have been reorganised as follows:

Content	Former Article Number	New Article Number
Mission, Goal & Founding Principles	Article 1	Article 1
Definitions	Article 2	Article 10
SOI's Governance of Special Olympics	Article 3	Article 4
Governance and Operation of Accredited Programs	Article 4	Article 5
Accreditation of Programs	Article 5	Article 6
Special Olympics Athletes	Article 6	Article 2
Sports Training and Competition	Article 7	Article 3
Fundraising & Development	Article 8	Article 7
Financial arrangements, Fiscal accountability, Insurance	Article 9	Article 8
Interpretation of the General Rules	Article 10	Article 9

US-Specific Rules



To ensure that the General Rules reflect a global movement, rules specific to United States' Accredited Programs are now included in a supplement to the General Rules.

The descriptive “National” has been removed, and replaced with the terms “**Accredited Program**” or “Program” . There a no longer a distinction made between US State Programs and other Country Programs in the Rules.

Official Sports & Classifications



'Games' refers to
a competition
with
three
or
more
Official
sports



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Official Sports & Classifications



Three general classes of Special Olympics sports:

1. **Official** Sports
2. **Recognised** Sports
3. **Locally popular** sports as defined in the Sports Rules



Prohibition and Display of National Flags



No national flags shall be displayed and no national anthems shall be sung or otherwise performed by any member of an Official Delegation at a Games

A GOC may display the flags of nations competing in World or Regional Games and the flag of the host nation at opening, closing and award ceremonies and Games venues.

Face-Painting



Prohibition of Face Painting:

- Athletes, coaches and volunteers shall not paint their faces during competitions, Games, opening and closing ceremonies, awards venues or victory banquets.
- Includes a prohibition against a display of commercial messages or national flags painted on the face.



Clowns & Mascots



Clowns:

- New: to ensure dignity of competition
- Clowns restricted to Olympic Town entertainment events

Mascots:

- Also new: SOI, a GOC, or an Accredited Program must ensure that mascots observe the dignity of events such as raising of flags, lighting of the cauldron
- Cannot participate in award ceremonies other than congratulating afterwards



Sub-Programs



If a Program loses its accreditation, the accreditation of any Sub-Program accredited by the Program will revert to the authority of SOI or its designated body.



SOI can cancel, renew, or extend the accreditation of any Sub-Program until a new Accredited Program is accredited (with authority to accredit Sub-Programs)

Revocation of Accreditation



Special Olympics operates on **an honour system rather than on enforcement**, but where appropriate SOI will take all necessary measures to ensure Programs follow the General Rules

To ensure neutrality in a case in which SOI has found grounds for revocation, **SOI will consult with someone designated by the relevant Regional Leadership Council** who does not have an interest in the revocation proceeding

Regional Advisory Councils



Now called **Regional Leadership Councils**, with the following language added:

- Each RLC shall be responsible for... **Strategic Growth plans** for its region;
- Persons elected to membership on an RLC must be an **Executive/Program Director**, or member of a **Board of Directors/Program Committee**
- SOI, in consultation with the RLCs, may periodically authorise the formation of **Sub-Regional Leadership Councils** ("SRLCs") to operate within a Sub-Region

Eligibility, YAP & Opportunities to participate



- Specific reference to an individual's "level or degree" of disability has been deleted
- The **Young Athletes** program is now specifically highlighted in the eligibility clause.
- Accredited Programs shall offer training and competition for athletes of all levels of ability **BUT** Games and Tournaments may be structured to cater for only one level of competition

Digital Fund-Raising



- Article updated to reflect technological developments since the last General Rules amendment
- In order to promote uniform standards, SOI shall provide written guidelines for all Accredited Programs and GOCs concerning digital fund-raising



Use of Assets



Accredited Programs and GOCs **cannot use assets**, including funds raised in the name of or for the benefit of Special Olympics, to fund participation in **competitions or programs not sanctioned by SOI**

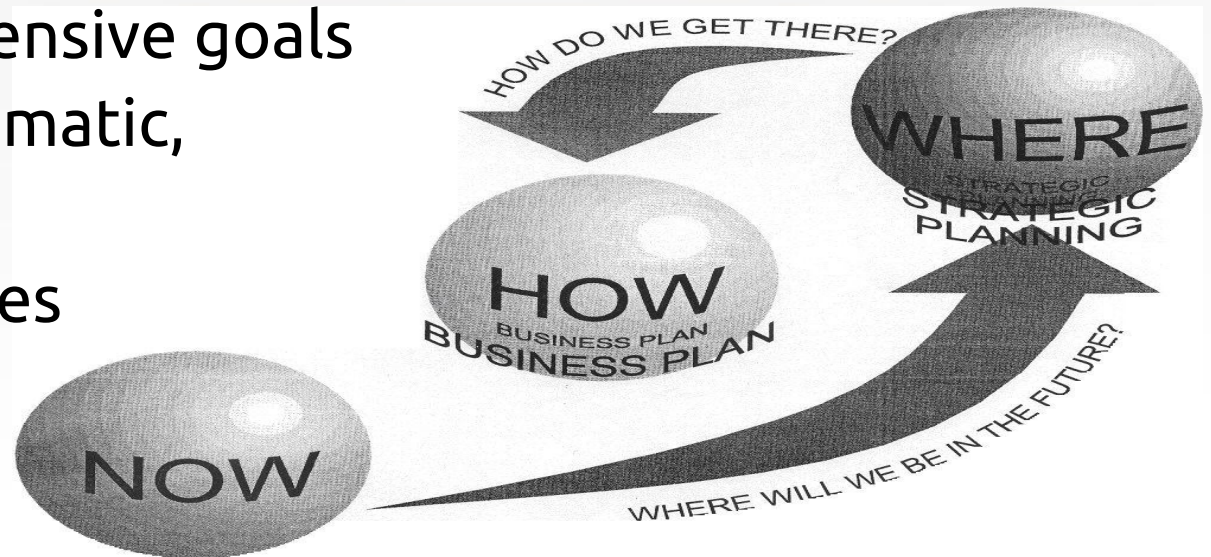


Annual Plans



Accredited Programs should:

- endeavour to develop multi-year plans aligned with SOI's strategic plans and priorities
- prepare a written operational plan for each fiscal year;
- set forth comprehensive goals for sports, programmatic, administrative and fund-raising activities



Accreditation Application



- Attach a copy of bi-laws
- Some changes in wording – **National** Programme is now **Programme** or **Accredited Programme**
- Additional question – Did programme hold a qualifying event for regional or world games during the past 2 years?
- Programme is aware of the new brand guidelines and has received the guidelines and tools.
- Programme has a 3013 operating plan as attachment

Amendment in detail & questions



A detailed description of the Amendment can be accessed at www.specialolympics.resources

Queries should be directed to SOI's Chief Legal Officer, Ms. Angela Ciccolo