



Sport Impact Standards

What is Sport Impact Standards?

The Sport Impact Standards are enhanced processes that produce high quality sports competition operations and sport presentations at Special Olympics World Games and International Single Sport Invitational events.

Why Sport Impact Standards?

Athletes demand high quality sport training and competition opportunities with a focus on equal and fair divisions that drive competitive athlete performance.

Athletics & Swimming

To ensure a fair divisioning process and competition format for Athletics and Swimming at Special Olympics World Games and International Single Sport Invitational events – Special Olympics International is implementing a new divisioning format, the Sport Impact Standards.

Each event will be divided by Levels – See Figure 1 for the Performance requirements for the 100 Meters Male competition. Please refer to the [2023 Delegation Registration Handbook](#) for Performance Level Standards for other Athletics and Swimming events.

To outline this new format, here is the Athlete Journey following the new model.

Athlete Name: Christian Nile
Delegation: SO Germany
Events Registered: 100 Meter Race
Competition: 2023 Berlin World Summer Games

Figure 1

Gender	Event	Level	Maximum Time	Minimum Time
Male	100 Meters	A	13.50	
		B	15.90	13.60
		C	20.00	16.00
		D		20.10

Divisioning - The fundamental difference between Special Olympics competitions and those of other sports organizations is that athletes of all ability levels are encouraged to participate, and every athlete is recognized for his/her performance. Competitions are structured so that athletes compete with other athletes of similar ability in equitable divisions



Step 1 – The Registration Process

Coaches register their athletes by checking the box of the corresponding Level in the Berlin 2023 Registration Portal. Coaches will have until 02 May, 2023 to update their Athlete's level. After 02 May, the Athlete Level cannot be changed.

For this example, a total number of athletes registered in Level C Male competition for the 100 Meters was 30. Our athlete, Christian Nile, was registered in Level C, as his best performance time is **18.00 seconds**.

Step 2 – Arrival to the Competition & Quarter Final Race

All Athletes will have a training day at the competition venue prior to the official competition.

During the first day of the official competition, all Level C athletes will be randomly divided into divisions of 8 athletes for the Quarter Final race. There will be 4 divisions, Division 1 - 3 will have 8 athletes each. Division 4 will have 6 Athletes.

Christian has been randomly assigned to **Level C Division 3 for the Quarter Final Race**.

Step 3 – Semi-Final Race

After the Quarter Final Race is conducted, the 30 Athletes of Level C will be re-divisioning into new divisions of 8, according to the times produced during the Quarter Final race. The times are ranked 1 – 30. The new divisions for the Semi-Final Race will be re-divisioned as followed:

- Division 1 – Times #1 - #8
- Division 2 - #9 - #16
- Division 3 - #17 - #24
- Division 4 - #25 - #30

Christian finished the Quarter Final race in **18.3 seconds**, which was the 10th best time. Therefore, he will be divisioned to **Level C Division 2 for the Semi-Final Race**.



Step 4 – Final Race

The Semi-Final race has been conducted and the 30 Athletes in Level C will be re-divisioned into new divisions of 8 according to the times produced during the Semi-Final race. Similar to the Semi-Final divisioning process, the times are ranked 1 – 30. The new divisions for the Final race will be re-divisioned as followed:

- Division 1 – Times #1 - #8
- Division 2 - #9 - #16
- Division 3 - #17 - #24
- Division 4 - #25 - #30

Christian finished the Semi-Final race in **17.2 seconds**, which was the 8th best time. Therefore, he will be divisioned to **Level C Division 1 for the Final Race**.

Christian finishes the Final race in **16.5 seconds**, which is the 3rd best time. **He received the bronze medal for his performance.**

Key Points of Emphasis

- If a coach has an athlete that has a performance time that is close to the time of the next upper level, it is advised that they register the athlete in the next upper Level to avoid disqualification. Since the athlete will have multiple competition opportunities, they will be divided into the best possible position during competition.
- Coaches have until **02 May 2023** to review and update their Athlete's Level for the 2023 Berlin World Summer Games.
- Athletes will move between different divisions in the same level during the Quarter Final, Semi-Final and Finals race.
- Athletes will not be disqualified by competing slower than the outlined Performance Standards by event. (i.e. An Athlete finishes the Quarter Final race for the Level C - 100M in 23.00 seconds. See Figure 1 for details).