



Updated Divisioning Model Under Sport Impact Standards

Step 1

Coach selected appropriate level at registration or final declaration in advance

Step 2

Athletes are divisioned in groups of 8, randomly within the level. For example – There are 32 Athletes in Level C (8 athletes are placed in 4 separate divisions)

Step 3

Race Conducted – Quarter Finals

Step 4

Athletes are re-divisioned in groups of 8, based on times from fastest to slowest

Step 5

Race Conducted – Semi Finals

Step 6

Athletes are re-divisioned in groups of 8, based on recent results from fastest to slowest

Step 7

Final Race Conducted. Awards are presented to Athletes

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.

Divisioning by Levels

Each event in Athletics and Swimming will be divisioned by Levels (i.e. Level A, B, C and/or D). There is a minimum and maximum time requirement for each corresponding Level.

During the Registration process, coaches registered their athletes in the appropriate Level based on the Athlete's time.

Key Points to Remember

- The deadline to update Athlete Levels in the registration is **02 May, 2023**
- Athletes will move between different divisions within the same level from Quarter-Finals to Semi-Finals, and from Semi-Finals to Finals
- An Athlete will not be moved from one Level to another during competition
- If an Athlete competes faster than the maximum time outlined in the next upper Level (see Figure 1), the athlete will be disqualified. Please make sure the athlete is registered accordingly in the correct Level



Frequently Asked Questions

Can An Athlete Improve His/Her's Time During Competitions By More Than 15%?

Athletes can be disqualified during any of the three races conducted in the event (Quarter- Finals, Semi-Finals or Finals).

If the Athlete's competes over the maximum time of the next upper level, they will be disqualified. For example, if an Athlete is registered in Level C and he finishes the Quarter-Final race for the 100M with a time of 15.90, they would be disqualified.

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

In another example, the athlete is registered in Level C - They finished the Quarter-Final race in 23.00 seconds (he was very nervous before his first race) and then during the Semi-Final race he finished in 17.2 – the difference between the Quarter-Final and Semi-Final time was 26%.

- This athlete would not be disqualified by finishing in 23.00 seconds. The Sport Impact Standards model does not disqualify athletes for being slower.
- This athlete would not be disqualified by improving 26% since they did not compete faster than the time requirements set for the upper level.

*Please refer to the 2023 Delegation Registration Handbook for Performance Level Standards for Athletics and Swimming

How Can I Avoid My Athlete Being Disqualified?

It is important that the athlete is registered in the correct Level. By registering the athlete in their correct level, they can finish the race within a range of times (i.e. If the athlete is registered in Level C – they can finish each race within 16.00 – 20.00 seconds). To ensure the athlete competes in the correct Level, please confirm their registration is correct by 02 May, 2023.

What if an Athlete's Performance is close to the Time of Next Upper Level?

The coach is advised to register the athlete in the next upper level.

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.