

Divisioning Quiz

Divisioning is key to the unique way Special Olympics runs its competitions.

In Special Olympics competitions, athletes are grouped by age and gender, then also by ability level. At World Games, divisioning usually happens a day or so ahead of competition.

The goal is to give every athlete his or her best chance to win, regardless of ability level. The quiz below highlights the most important aspects of Special Olympics divisioning. Test your knowledge!

1) The divisioning process plays a critical role in Special Olympics competitions because it:

- Allows Special Olympics coaches to request the start times of their competitions
- Helps Special Olympics organizers predict the outcome of competitions
- Ensures that athletes will be competing against other athletes of equal ability
- None of the above

2) The Special Olympics divisioning process groups individual athletes or teams by what three factors?

- Gender, age, height and weight
- Disability status, age, gender
- Ability, height and weight, disability status
- Gender, age, ability

3) The Special Olympics divisioning process is required at what levels of competition?

- All levels of competition
- Low skill levels
- Moderate skill levels
- High skill levels

4) The Special Olympics divisioning process is required during competition for what sports?

- All sports
- Team sports
- Individual sports
- All sports except for equestrian events

5) According to Article 1 of the Special Olympics Sports Rules, how many athletes or teams should be in each division?

- A minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 athletes or teams per division
- A minimum of 1 and a maximum of 8 athletes or teams per division
- A minimum of 3 and a maximum of 8 athletes or teams per division
- A minimum of 3 and a maximum of 15 athletes or teams per division

6) According to Article 1 of the Special Olympics Sports Rules, there should be no more than a ____ difference between the highest and lowest skilled athlete or team in a division.

- 10 %
- 15 %
- 20 %
- 25 %

7) What is the divisioning process in sports where assessing player ability can be difficult, such as judged sports like gymnastics or team sports like basketball?

- Prior to competition, athletes or teams compete in a round-robin tournament to determine ability rankings; these ability rankings then determine final divisions.
- Prior to competition, coaches submit player rating or skills assessment forms to game organizers. From these rating or assessment forms, game organizers assign athletes or teams to their final division assignments.
- Coaches submit player rating or skills assessment forms to game organizers two hours prior to formal competition, along with recommendations for the divisions in which their athletes or teams should be placed.
- Prior to competition, coaches submit player rating or skills assessment forms to game organizers. Based on data reported in these forms, game organizers place athletes or teams into preliminary divisions. Before formal game play, short competitions are held to assess the appropriateness of athletes' or teams' preliminary division placements.

8) The Special Olympics “maximum effort” rule states that:

- The only time an athlete or team is required to demonstrate maximum effort is during medal contending competition.
- An athlete or team who performs significantly better in final competition relative to their preliminary events may be subject to disqualification.
- A coach is allowed to bench his or her top-two highest-performing athletes during division assessment competitions.
- If an athlete or team performs significantly worse in final competition relative to their preliminary events, they may request a “re-do” in a lower division.

9) In order to create good divisions and equal competition, it is critical for coaches to submit their athletes’ _____ to competition organizers prior to the event.

- Worst times or scores
- Average times or scores
- Anticipated competition times or scores
- Best times or scores

10) It is the responsibility of the coach to inform competition management if, during a preliminary event, their athlete or team performance did not accurately reflect their ability.

- True
- False

11) In instances where there are fewer than three athletes or teams in each division of a competition, Article 1 of the Special Olympics Sports Rules states that which of the following modifications can take place?

- Age groups can be modified
- Ability ranges can be modified
- Genders can be combined
- All of the above