



2022 Rule Change Summary

Sport Rules Article I

Change From	Change To
Old Formatting	New cover photos & date change at footer to reflect October 2022
Entire Document GOC (Games Organizing Committee)	CHANGE: GOC (Games Organizing Committee) LOC (Local Organizing Committee)
Section 2 Sport Rules and Training 2.2 Use of International Federation or National Governing Body Rules 2.2.2 At Special Olympics Regional and World Games, the ISF rules shall be used.	CHANGE: At Special Olympics Regional and World Games as well as International/Continental Single or Multi Sport Events , the ISF rules shall be used.
Section 5 Classifications of Special Olympics Sports 5.2 Sport Level Criteria 2020 Chart Level 1/Rules Cell - Standardized Special Olympics rules are published and uniformly enforced at Program, Regional and World Games competitions 5.3.1 SOI has presently classified combative sports, martial arts (other than Judo), sledding sports, motor sports, aerial sports, shooting and archery as Locally Popular Sports that Require Pre-Approval from SOI.	CHANGE: 5.2 Sport Level Criteria Updated Chart has removed the term 'Partner' CHANGE: Level 1/Rules Cell - Standardized Special Olympics rules are published and uniformly enforced at Program, Regional and World Games competitions and International/Continental Single or Multi Sport Events CHANGE: 5.3.1 SOI has presently classified combative sports, martial arts (other than Judo), sledding sports, motor sports, aerial sports, shooting and archery as Locally Popular Sports that Require Pre-Approval from SOI.
Section 7 Medical and Safety Requirements 7.5.1 For information relating to participation by individuals with Down Syndrome who have Atlanto-Axial Instability, see Addendum E.	CHANGE: For information relating to participation by individuals who have Down Syndrome Atlanto-Axial Instability (e.g., Individuals with Down Syndrome) , see Addendum E.



<p>Section 9 Age Requirements and Groupings for Competition</p> <p>9.1.3 Athletes may participate in local events up to and including National and Regional Games once they are eligible to do so. However, no athlete under the age of 15 years of age may participate in a World Games.</p>	<p>CHANGE: Athletes may participate in local events up to and including National and Regional Games once they are eligible to do so. However, no athlete under the age of 15 years of age may participate in a World Games or International Single or Multi Sport Events.</p>
<p>Section 10 Special Olympics Divisioning</p> <p>10.4.1.1 Divide teams into two groups based upon gender. Female teams shall compete against other female teams, and male teams shall compete against other male teams. Mixed gender teams shall be divisioned with male teams unless there are sufficient mixed gender teams of similar ability to make a separate division.</p>	<p>CHANGE: Divide teams into two groups based upon gender. Female teams shall compete against other female teams, and male teams shall compete against other male teams. Mixed gender teams shall be divisioned with male teams unless there are sufficient mixed gender teams of similar ability to make a separate division. Refer to sport-specific rules for composition of mixed gender team.</p>
<p>Section 11 Maximum Effort Rule (formerly known as Honest Effort Rule)</p> <p>11.3.2 Event Type – Natural Variance in Scores Example</p> <p>11.3.2.1 A relatively small distance improvement of 0.3 m in the standing long jump event may have a significant impact on the performance variance between the divisioning and final score. Therefore, a larger performance percentage should be considered.</p> <p>11.3.2.2 An event such as the 3000m run, a small score improvement of 10 seconds would likely not cause a significant percentage increase between the divisioning and final score. Therefore, a smaller performance percentage may be considered.</p> <p>11.3.2.3 Divisioning percentages: Competition Management must take into account the percentage difference between the highest and lowest scores within a division. The enforced Maximum Effort percentage must always be greater than the percentage difference between the highest and lowest scores in a division. How an event is divisioned should impact the implementation of a Maximum Effort percentage rule/guideline.</p>	<p>CHANGE: Section 11 Maximum Effort Violation (formerly known as Honest Effort Rule)</p> <p>NOTE: The change of name has been updated throughout the entire section.</p> <p>DELETE: This text will be moved to a separate document located on the SO Resource Page</p> <p>11.3.2 – Event Type – Natural Variance in Scores Example</p> <p>11.3.2.1 A relatively small distance improvement of 0.3 m in the standing long jump event may have a significant impact on the performance variance between the divisioning and final score. Therefore, a larger performance percentage should be considered.</p> <p>11.3.2.2 An event such as the 3000m run, a small score improvement of 10 seconds would likely not cause a significant percentage increase between the divisioning and final score. Therefore, a smaller performance percentage may be considered.</p> <p>11.3.2.3 Divisioning percentages: Competition Management must take into account the percentage difference between the highest and lowest scores within a division. The enforced Maximum Effort percentage must always be greater than the percentage difference between the highest and lowest scores in a division. How an event is divisioned</p>



<p>11.3.2.4 When and where divisioning scores were established: Competition Management must take into account when and where the divisioning scores were established. The Maximum Effort performance percentages may be different for events where divisioning and final scores are taken at the same event versus events where divisioning scores are established from previous competition(s) or training.</p> <p>11.3.2.5 Weather conditions: Competition Management must take into account if the weather conditions have changed from the divisioning events to final events.</p>	<p>should impact the implementation of a Maximum Effort percentage rule/guideline.</p> <p>11.3.2.4 When and where divisioning scores were established: Competition Management must take into account when and where the divisioning scores were established. The Maximum Effort performance percentages may be different for events where divisioning and final scores are taken at the same event versus events where divisioning scores are established from previous competition(s) or training.</p> <p>11.3.2.5 Weather conditions: Competition Management must take into account if the weather conditions have changed from the divisioning events to final events.</p>
<p>Section 13 Criteria for Advancement to Higher Level Competition</p> <p>13.3.1 Programs must publish the process and criteria in advance.</p> <p>13.3.2 The Accredited Program, working with the GOC, determines the number of athletes or teams that will be allowed to participate at the competition in question by sport and/or event. This is the quota to be filled.</p> <p>13.3.3 The Accredited Program identifies the number of athletes or teams eligible for advancement within the sport and/or event based on participation in competition at the lower level.</p> <p>13.3.4 If the number of eligible athletes or teams does not exceed the quota, all athletes and teams shall advance.</p> <p>13.4.3.1 For advancement to Multi-National, Regional and World Games: SO- World Games Department will consider and approve or disapprove all requests.</p>	<p>ADD/CHANGE:</p> <p>13.3.1 Quota is the maximum number of athletes which can participate in any competition.</p> <p>13.3.2 13.3.4 Programs must publish the process and criteria in advance.</p> <p>13.3.3 The Accredited Program working with the GOC, determines the receives the number of athletes or teams that will be allowed to participate at the competition in question by sport and/or event by the specific organizing committee. This is the quota to be filled.</p> <p>13.3.4 13.3.3 The Accredited Program identifies the number of athletes or teams eligible for advancement within the sport and/or event based on participation in competition at the lower level.</p> <p>13.3.5 13.3.4 If the number of eligible athletes or teams does not exceed the quota, all athletes and teams shall advance.</p> <p>CHANGE: For advancement to International/Continental Single or Multi Sport Events, Regional and World Games: SO- World Games Department will consider and approve or disapprove all requests.</p>
<p>Section 14 Special Olympics Unified Sports</p> <p>14.1.2.3 Unified Sports Competitive model teams are eligible to compete at Regional and World Games.</p>	<p>CHANGE: Unified Sports Competitive model teams are eligible to compete at all levels of competition.</p>



<p>14.1.3.3 Unified Sports Player Development model teams are not eligible to compete at Regional and World Games.</p> <p>14.1.4.3 Unified Sports Recreation model teams are not eligible to compete at Regional and World Games.</p>	<p>CHANGE: Unified Sports Player Development model teams are eligible to compete up to Program and National level competition not eligible to compete at Regional and World Games</p> <p>CHANGE: Unified Sports Recreation model teams are eligible to compete up to Program and National level competition. not eligible to compete at Regional and World Games.</p>
<p>Section 14 Special Olympics Unified Sports</p> <p>14.2.3.3 “Meaningful Involvement” is an effort to optimize participation by all team members (athletes and partners) based on the principle that every player should contribute to the success of the team. The composition of any team must include players with necessary sport-specific skills. Teams should not include players who dominate play, exclude other teammates from contributing to the success of the team, or present a health and safety risk on the field of play. By permitting any player to dominate play, other players’ roles and opportunities are greatly limited. This violates both the spirit and intent of the Special Olympics Unified Sports rules and philosophy and will be addressed according to the standards set forth by each sport’s rules and governing ordinances.</p>	<p>CHANGE:</p> <p>14.2.3.3 “Meaningful Involvement” is an effort to optimize participation by all team members (athletes and partners) based on the principle that every player should contribute to the success of the team. The composition of any team must include players with necessary sport-specific skills. Teams should not include players who dominate play, exclude other teammates from contributing to the success of the team, or present a health and safety risk on the field of play. By permitting any player to dominate play, other players’ roles and opportunities are greatly limited. This violates both the spirit and intent of the Special Olympics Unified Sports rules and philosophy and will be addressed according to the standards set forth by each sport’s governing rules</p>
<p>Section 14 Special Olympics Unified Sports</p> <p>14.2.3.4 Consequences for non-compliance are either:</p> <p>14.2.3.4.1 Specific Player Sanctions (encourage voluntary substitution, technical foul, warning, yellow card, ejection)</p> <p>14.2.3.4.2 Team Consequences (forfeiture of game, disqualification from tournament)</p>	<p>CHANGE:</p> <p>14.2.3.4 Consequences for non-compliance are either:</p> <p>14.2.3.4.1 Specific Player or Coach Sanctions (sport-specific penalties, for example: substitution, technical foul, warning, yellow card, ejection)</p> <p>14.2.3.4.2 Team Consequences Sanctions (for example: change of possession, forfeiture of game, disqualification from tournament)</p>
<p>Section 14 Special Olympics Unified Sports</p> <p>14.2.3.5 A Unified Sports delegate addresses issues at events and is ultimately empowered to enforce Meaningful Involvement and similar age requirements. If a Unified Sports delegate determines that a player is dominating play, that official shall sanction the coach.</p>	<p>CHANGE:</p> <p>14.2.3.5 A Unified Sports Delegate addresses issues at events and is ultimately empowered to enforce Meaningful Involvement and similar age requirements. If a Unified Sports delegate determines that a player is dominating play, that official shall sanction the coach.</p>



<p>Section 14 Special Olympics Unified Sports</p> <p>14.3 Special Olympics Unified Sports Competitive Sport-Specific Parameters Chart</p> <p>Please refer to Special Olympics Sport-specific Rules for additional information and details for conducting Unified Sports competition.</p>	<p>ADD/CHANGE:</p> <p>Included the following sports/events to the chart:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball #x3 • Football 8-a-side • Beach Volleyball Team Competition • Dancesport Solo/Duos • Dancesport Team • Roller skating Synchronized Skating • Judo Doubles Kata • Parallel Giant Slalom <p>ADD: Please refer to Special Olympics Sport-specific Rules for additional information and details for conducting Unified Sports competition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parameters listed above, as well as the Special Olympics sport-specific rules, reflect the Unified Sports Competitive Model to be applied at all levels • Rule modifications in the framework of Player Development and Recreation Models can be implemented at Special Olympics Program level. • If a team is selected to an international level competition, the team must comply with the most recent official Unified Sports Competitive Model rules.
<p>Section 15 Motor Activities Training Program (MATP)</p> <p>15.1 Purpose</p> <p>15.1.1 The Special Olympics Motor Activity Training Program is designed for athletes with severe or profound intellectual disability who are unable to participate in Official Special Olympics sport competitions because of their skill and/or functional abilities. The Motor Activity Training Program is designed to prepare athletes with severe or profound intellectual disability, including athletes with significant physical disabilities, for sport-specific activities appropriate for their abilities. Athletes with significant disabilities are those who need highly specialized training programs because of their physical, mental, or emotional problems. As a unique sport-based program, the Motor Activity Training Program does not exclude any athlete. It is designed to</p>	<p>CHANGE:</p> <p>15.1 Purpose</p> <p>15.1.1 The Special Olympics Motor Activity Training Program is designed for athletes who are not yet able to participate in official Special Olympics sports competitions due to their functional abilities. MATP incorporates many and varied training sport-based activities, which have been developed and tested by experts with practical experience in this field.</p> <p>15.2 Program</p> <p>15.2.1 MATP provides a comprehensive, sport-based, motor activity and recreation training curriculum for these participants. MATP emphasizes training and participation rather than competition. In addition, the program provides the means for athletes to participate in appropriate recreational activities geared to their ability levels.</p>



<p>provide individualized training programs to all athletes with significant disabilities.</p> <p>15.2 Program</p> <p>15.2.1 The program provides a comprehensive motor activity and recreation training curriculum for these participants. MATP emphasizes training and participation rather than competition. In addition, the program provides the means for athletes to participate in appropriate recreational activities geared to their ability levels.</p> <p>15.3 Activities</p> <p>15.3.1 Activities shall be conducted in accordance with the MATP Coaching Guide which is available at www.specialolympics.org</p>	<p>15.3 Activities</p> <p>15.3.1 MATP athletes train and demonstrate skills in the domains of mobility, striking, throwing, kicking, wheel chair (manual and electric) and water skills.</p>
<p>A.1 – Sports Rules Advisory Committee</p> <p>SOI shall appoint all members of the Sports Rules Advisory Committee. These appointments shall be made by SOI's Chief Executive Officer or his/her designee. In making these appointments, SOI may consider recommendations from Accredited Programs or from other persons who participate in or are affiliated with Special Olympics. Each member of the SRAC shall serve for a term of four years. Members may be re- appointed for a second term. SOI's Chief Executive Officer will appoint a replacement for any Committee member who is unable or unwilling to complete his/her four-year term.</p>	<p>DELETE:</p> <p>SOI shall appoint all members of the Sports Rules Advisory Committee. These appointments shall be made by SOI's Chief Executive Officer or his/her designee. In making these appointments, SOI may consider recommendations from Accredited Programs or from other persons who participate in or are affiliated with Special Olympics. Each member of the SRAC shall serve for a term of four years. Members may be re- appointed for a second term. SOI's Chief Executive Officer will appoint a replacement for any Committee member who is unable or unwilling to complete his/her four-year term.</p>
<p>A.2 - SPORTS RESOURCE TEAMS (SRTs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sports Rules Advisory Committee shall utilize Sport Resource Teams (SRT's) for reviewing the rules concerning each Official and Recognized Sport. • Each SRT shall report its recommendations to the SRAC. • The following shall be the major responsibilities for SRT members pertaining to a specific sport: 	<p>CHANGE:</p> <p>GLOBAL SPORT ADVISORS SPORT RESOURCE TEAMS (SRTS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sports Rules Advisory Committee shall utilize Sport Resource Teams (SRTs) Global Sport Advisors (GSA) for reviewing the rules concerning each Sport. • Each GSA shall report its recommendations to the SRAC.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewing all proposed rule changes. - Providing input and guidance to the SRAC regarding proposed rules changes. - Acquiring an understanding of Special Olympics and International Federation rules. - Ensuring that sports rules are accurately reflected in all sport specific resources as they are developed. - Working with other SRT members to formulate recommendations to the SRAC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following shall be the major responsibilities for Global Sport Advisors pertaining to a specific sport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewing all proposed rule changes. - Providing input and guidance to the SRAC regarding proposed rules changes. - Acquiring an understanding of Special Olympics and International Federation rules. - Ensuring that sports rules are accurately reflected in all sport specific resources as they are developed. - Working with other Regional Sport Advisors to formulate recommendations to the SRAC.
<p>A.5 – Official Form: For Proposing Special Olympics Sports Rules, Amendments and Modifications</p>	<p>CHANGE: Official Form: Special Olympics Proposed Rule Change Form – Online Submission Form has now been made available and will open based on the cyclical rules cycle.</p>
<p>Addendum B – International Sport Federations Contact Information</p>	<p>CHANGE: SOI International Sport Federation contact information has been updated accordingly</p>