



2024 Rule Change Summary

Golf

Change From	Change To
Old Formatting	See date change at footer to reflect September 2024
Section 2 – Official Events	<p>ADD:</p> <p>The following is a list of official events available in Special Olympics:</p> <p>2.1 Level 1 — Individual Skills Competition</p> <p>2.2 Level 2 — Unified Sports Alternate Shot Team Play Competition (9-hole)</p> <p>2.3 Level 3 — Unified Sports Alternate Shot Team Play Competition (18 hole)</p> <p>2.4 Level 4 — Individual Stroke Play Competition (9 hole)</p> <p>2.5 Level 5 – Individual Stroke Play Competition (18 hole)</p> <p>2.6 Topgolf (Target Orientation Play) Singles Competition</p> <p>2.7 Topgolf Unified Doubles Competition</p>
<p>3.1.3 Required Averages</p> <p>3.1.3 Required Averages</p> <p>3.1.3.1 When considering moving up in levels, the following scores are the required averages that the athlete must have when practicing:</p> <p>3.1.3.1.1 Level 2 to Level 3 = average of 120 or lower (team score)</p>	<p>CHANGE/ADD:</p> <p>3.1.3 Required Averages</p> <p>3.1.3.1 When considering moving up in levels, the following scores are the required averages that the athlete must have when practicing:</p> <p>3.1.3.1.1 Level 2 to Level 3 = average of 120 or lower (team score)</p>



<p>3.1.3.1.2 Level 2 to Level 4 = average of 70 or lower (athlete only score)</p> <p>3.1.3.1.3 Level 3 to Level 4 = average of 70 or lower (athlete only score)</p> <p>3.1.3.1.4 Level 3 to Level 5 = average of 120 (athlete only score) or lower</p> <p>3.1.3.1.5 Level 4 to Level 5 = average of 120 (athlete only score) or lower</p>	<p>3.1.3.1.2 Level 2 to Level 4 = average of 70 or lower (athlete only score)</p> <p>3.1.3.1.3 Level 3 to Level 4 = average of 70 or lower (athlete only score)</p> <p>3.1.3.1.4 Level 4 to Level 5 = average of 120 or lower</p> <p>3.1.3.1.5 Level 3 to Level 5 = average of 120 or lower (athlete only score) or lower</p> <p>3.1.3.2 When reviewing averages from scorecards, considerations should be taken to compare the yardage played vs. the maximum yardages for Special Olympics golf competitions, to determine if any adjustments should be made.</p>
<p>3.1.4 Maximum Averages</p> <p>3.1.4 Maximum Averages</p> <p>3.1.4.1 The following are maximum averages for each level of competition that will be enforced at all sanctioned competitions. Scores not meeting these criteria may be subject to disqualification.</p> <p>3.1.4.1.1 Level 2 – average of 70 or lower</p> <p>3.1.4.1.2 Level 3 – average of 120 or lower (18 holes)</p> <p>3.1.4.1.3 Level 4 – average of 70 or lower</p> <p>3.1.4.1.4 Level 5 – average of 120 or lower</p> <p>3.1.4.2 For the purpose of submitting scorecards for an event, reviewing scores/scorecards for the consideration of moving athletes/teams up in level and the enforcement of maximum scores, please note</p>	<p>ADD/CHANGE:</p> <p>3.1.4 Maximum Averages</p> <p>3.1.4.1 The following are maximum averages for each level of competition that will be enforced at all sanctioned competitions. Scores not meeting these criteria may be subject to disqualification.</p> <p>3.1.4.1.1 Level 2 – average of 70 or lower (9 holes)</p> <p>3.1.4.1.2 Level 3 – average of 120 or lower (18 holes)</p> <p>3.1.4.1.3 Level 4 – average of 70 (or a comparable handicap index) or lower (9 holes)</p> <p>3.1.4.1.4 Level 5 – average of 120 (or a comparable handicap index) or lower (18 holes)</p> <p>3.1.4.2 For the purpose of submitting scorecards for an event, reviewing scores/scorecards for the consideration of moving athletes/teams up in level and the enforcement of maximum scores, please note that scores/scorecards from executive courses or Par 3 courses should not be submitted.</p>



<p>that scores/scorecards from executive courses or Par 3 courses should not be submitted.</p>	<p>3.1.4.3 When reviewing averages from scorecards, considerations should be taken to compare the yardages played vs. the maximum yardages for Special Olympics golf competitions, to determine if any adjustments should be made.</p> <p>3.1.4.4 Use of a handicap index, via the World Handicap System (https://www.whs.com/) for registration and divisioning of golfers competing in Levels 4 and 5 is encouraged.</p>
	<p>ADD:</p> <p>3.2 Unified Rules</p> <p>3.2.1 The athlete to Unified partner ratio must be 1 athlete to 1 Unified partner in Team Play.</p> <p>3.2.2 It is preferred that athletes and Unified partners are of similar age and similar ability. For more information on similar age and ability please see Sport Rules Article 1 Section 14.1.2</p>
<p>3.3 Slow Play</p> <p>3.3.1 For the purpose of preventing slow play, the Committee may, in the conditions of a competition (Rule 33-1), establish pace of play guidelines including maximum periods of time to complete a stipulated round, a hole, or a stroke.</p>	<p>CHANGE/ADD:</p> <p>3.4 Pace of Play</p> <p>3.4.1.1 For the purpose of preventing slow play, the Committee may, in the conditions of a competition (Rule 33-1), establish pace of play guidelines including maximum periods of time to complete a stipulated round, a hole, or a stroke.</p>
	<p>ADD (5.4.4 + 6.4.4 + 7.3.3 + 8.3.4):</p> <p>5.4.4 Returning a wrong score for a hole – If the athlete or unified partner returns a scorecard with a wrong score for any hole:</p> <p>5.4.4.1 Returned score higher than actual score – The higher returned score of the hole stands.</p>



	<p>5.4.4.2 Returned score lower than actual score or no score returned – the athlete or unified team will record a 10X for the hole(s) where the returned score is lower than the actual score.</p>
	<p>ADD:</p> <p>Section 9 Topgolf – Competition Rules</p> <p>9.1 The purpose of Topgolf is to allow athletes and Unified partners to train and compete in basic golf skills.</p> <p>9.2 Equipment</p> <p>9.2.1 Golfers use golf clubs provided by the facility or use personal clubs.</p> <p>9.2.2 Golf balls</p> <p>9.2.2.1 Topgolf golf balls must be used at all times during training and competition sessions held at Topgolf locations. These specific golf balls include Toptracer technology and any other golf balls are not permitted.</p> <p>9.3 Scoring</p> <p>9.3.1 A maximum of 400 points may be scored in the signature Topgolf game.</p> <p>9.3.1.1 The maximum score excludes hole in ones.</p> <p>9.3.2 A swing and miss does count as a stroke.</p> <p>9.3.3 If a ball is not tracked by the scoring system, then the golfer is permitted to re-hit the ball and the missed ball will count as a practice swing.</p> <p>9.3.4 The 15th shot is deemed as a bonus ball. If the golfer scores inside of one of the shaded areas of a target, an additional 10 points will be added to the total score.</p>



	<p>9.3.5 Scores will be determined by landing in one of the 10 targets on the Topgolf course.</p> <p>9.4 Topgolf Course Setup</p> <p>9.4.1 Golfers compete in individual bays. Each bay can fit 6 golfers during competition.</p> <p>9.4.2 There are a total of 10 targets. These targets include a variety of distances that are categorized by different colors.</p> <p>9.5 Topgolf Single Competition Rules</p> <p>9.5.1 Rules of Play</p> <p>9.5.1.1 The golfer scores points by hitting balls into any target.</p> <p>9.5.1.1.1 Each golfer has 20 attempts to use a variety of different clubs to hit the ball.</p> <p>9.6 Topgolf Unified Doubles Competition Rules</p> <p>9.6.1 Team Definitions</p> <p>9.6.1.1 For Unified doubles competitions, a team shall consist of one athlete with an intellectual disability and one Unified partner without an intellectual disability.</p> <p>9.6.2 Rules of Play</p> <p>9.6.2.1 The golfers will alternately hit 5 balls each turn, giving each golfer 20 attempts per round of Topgolf. Once both the unified team has completed 20 hits, these scores will be combined and averaged.</p>
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