



## SOEE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SELECTION CRITERIA AND PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN COMPETITIONS

### SO NATIONAL PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- SO National Director and Sports Director are responsible for appropriate athletes (athletes from every level of ability) and coaches selection for European Games and competitions according to SOI Sports Rules, **Article 1, point 13** (Version - July 2017, page 17) <https://resources.specialolympics.org/sports-essentials/sports-rules>
- SO Programs Sports Director/ Coordinator is responsible for creating a Selection Committee to organize and oversee the selection process.
- SO Sports Director is responsible for providing all necessary information and materials referring to the competition to the selected coaches.

### ATHLETES SELECTION

- All athletes selected for European Special Olympics games and competitions:
  - a) Must have been trained according to Special Olympics and NGB rules for at least 6 months
  - b) Must have participated in the same sport in the program's National Special Olympics Games (if national games are held in the country within three years before the competition) or previous highest level competition before the selection procedure.
  - c) Should be minimum 16 years old with exception of Gymnastics and Figure Skating. In case of selection younger athletes then 16, but not younger than 12, Nat'l Program have to sign commitment to take responsibility in case of serious injury or safety problems. In this case this younger athlete can be divisioned in older age category (16-21).
- SO Program Sports Director/ Coordinator is responsible for distribution and explanation of SOI sports rules (including Article 1) to all the coaches participating in SO Programs who want their athletes to be selected to the multinational competitions and agreed with selection criteria.

### COACHES SELECTION

- SO coaches should be chosen after the athletes have been selected as all coaches have to know the abilities of their athletes
- Selected coaches should be certified by the SO National Program or NGB after participation in a Special Olympics training course of minimum duration of 8 hours and have participated as a coach at SO competition.



- Selected coaches must know and understand the SO Mission, Philosophy and Divisioning System, before traveling to a European competition.
- Selected coaches must have a good knowledge and clear understanding of (and possess a copy of) the respective IGB sport rules and SO sport rules including Article 1.
- Coaches should be aware and follow safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that every athlete, regardless of their age, gender, religion or ethnicity, can be protected from harm.
- If the coach is not the personal coach of the athletes, the coach needs some preparation time with the new athletes that includes : Background, Training and Teambuilding activities

SO Program Selection Committee (or other SO Program body/committee) is responsible for ensuring that all the minimum standard requirements listed above are complied with.