



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 SO European Competitions according to Special Olympics General Rules 3.06 (e) and Sport Rules Article 1, point 13 (Version 2022)
<https://media.specialolympics.org/resources/sports-essentials/sport-rules/Sports-Essentials-Article-1-Rules-2022.pdf>
- 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 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 on national/local level of Special Olympics Accredited Program;
 - c) Should be minimum 15 years old. In case of selection younger athletes then 15, this younger athlete will be divisioned in older age category.
- SO Program Sports Director/ Coordinator is responsible for distribution and if requested explanation of SO 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

- Coaches should be chosen, after the athletes have been selected, as they have to know well their athletes.
- Selected coaches should be certified by Special Olympics Accredited Program – participated in SO course of min. duration of 8 hours, and as a coach in 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 sports federation rules and Special Olympics 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.

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