



DATE: 22 October 2018
FROM: Angela Ciccolo, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary, Special Olympics International
TO: All Special Olympics Accredited Programs, Abu Dhabi Local Organizing Committee
RE: **General Rules Requirements Related to World Games**

We are extremely excited about the upcoming World Games. I wish you and your delegations safe travels and look forward to seeing you in Abu Dhabi! In preparation, we would like to remind all attending delegations of a few important Special Olympics Official General Rules requirements related to World Games participation. I ask for your assistance in ensuring your delegation's compliance with these requirements.

- 1. Olympic Logo and Anthem.** Through an agreement signed in 1988, the International Olympic Committee officially recognized Special Olympics and agreed to cooperate with Special Olympics as a representative of the interests of athletes with intellectual disabilities. As part of this agreement, Special Olympics has committed to not use Olympic intellectual property in connection with Special Olympics activities. As a result, please instruct your delegation members not to display of the five-ring Olympic logo or play the Olympic anthem during World Games activities.
- 2. Commercial Messages on Uniforms.** Section 5.08(a) of the General Rules prohibits the inclusion of commercial names, messages and logos on uniforms worn by athletes, Unified partners and coaches during World Games competition, opening ceremony, and closing ceremony. The only commercial markings permitted on competition uniforms are the normal commercial markings of the manufacturer. Such permitted markings are limited in size, as detailed in Section 5.08(a). Please ensure that all clothing your delegation members will be wearing during competition and opening and closing ceremonies are compliant with Section 5.08(a).
- 3. National Flags and National Anthems.** A founding principle of Special Olympics is to transcend national origin and political philosophy. Section 5.08(g) of the General Rules prohibits athletes, coaches and other delegation members from displaying national flags and performing national anthems during World Games events. Please instruct all members of your delegation that they should not bring flags or any materials displaying flags (such as clothing) with them when they travel to Abu Dhabi. (Note that the General Rules do permit the Local Organizing Committee to display the host nation's flag and perform its national anthem at opening, closing and award ceremonies and Games venues.)
- 4. Athlete Advancement to World Games.** Under Section 3.06(e) of the General Rules and Article 1, Section 13 of the Sports Rules, Accredited Programs are required to select athletes for participation in

World Games through procedures designed to give athletes of all ability levels equal opportunities to advance to higher levels of competition. Required procedures include:

- **Eligibility.** Athletes must have competed in the previous level of competition (Program or Regional level Games) in the same sport to be eligible for advancement to World Games. See Sports Rules Article 1, Section 13.2.1 for exceptions.
- **Published Process.** Accredited Programs must publish the selection process and criteria in advance.
- **Priority to Top Finishers and Random Draw.** If the number of eligible athletes or teams exceeds the quota for a sport, give priority to first-place finishers from all divisions at the previous level of competition. If the number of first-place finishers exceeds the quota, select from the first-place finishers by random draw. If the quota exceeds the number of first-place finishers, give priority next to second-place finishers. If the number of second-place finishers exceeds the quota, select from the second-place finishers by random draw. Repeat this process, adding each place of finish as necessary, until the quota is filled.

Please review your Program's athlete advancement procedures to ensure they are consistent with the requirements of the General Rules and the Sports Rules. If you find your advancement procedures are not consistent with the requirements, please take steps to correct your procedures going forward. This memo is not asking you to do anything that would remove opportunities from athletes already registered to compete in Abu Dhabi.

Excerpts of the above rules are attached for your reference.

The complete General Rules are at: <https://resources.specialolympics.org/General-Rules/>.

The complete set of Sports Rules are at: <https://resources.specialolympics.org/Sports-Rules/>.

Thank you for your support in making the 2019 World Games one of our best ever. If you have any questions about the above requirements, please contact your regional office or the SOI Legal Department at legal@specialolympics.org.

Finally, please acknowledge receipt of this memo by emailing legal@specialolympics.org.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS OFFICIAL GENERAL RULES

Special Olympics





PREAMBLE

to the Special Olympics General Rules

Special Olympics unleashes the transformative power and joy of sports to reveal the full potential of athletes with intellectual disabilities, creating more inclusive communities, everyday around the world.

We do this through a set of values that guide our actions and behavior in the implementation of our mission.

SPORTSMANSHIP WITH JOY

We believe in the transformative power of sports. We embrace the purity of sports at all levels as we witness incredible personal athletic triumphs that shatter stereotypes.

ATHLETE LEADERSHIP

We empower athletes to be contributing and respected members of Special Olympics and society. We support athlete leaders on and off the playing field.

UNITY

We are united in our commitment to inclusion, respect and dignity. We build communities of acceptance: loving families, inspired employees, coaches, volunteers, and fans. We are one Movement, in every community and every country.

BRAVERY

We live our Athlete Oath: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

PERSEVERANCE

We are capable, tenacious and resilient. We don't give up on ourselves or each other.

Special Olympics, Inc. ("**SOI**") has relationships with various bodies and organizations as described below.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Through a Protocol of Agreement signed on February 15, 1988, the International Olympic Committee (the "**IOC**") officially recognized SOI and agreed to cooperate with SOI as a representative of the interests of athletes with intellectual disabilities. The IOC's formal recognition of SOI carries with it a solemn duty and responsibility, which must be discharged by SOI and all of its Accredited Programs, to conduct Special Olympics training and competition in accordance with the highest ideals of the international Olympic movement, to guard and protect the use of the term "Special Olympics," and to protect the word "Olympics" from



unauthorized use or exploitation. The IOC's Protocol of Agreement with SOI prohibits SOI, Programs and GOCs from using the 5 ring Olympic logo, the Olympic anthem, or the Olympics motto. Each Accredited Program agrees to fulfill these responsibilities by accepting accreditation from SOI, as provided in its Accreditation License and Article 6 of the General Rules.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Through passage of the Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §380, the United States Congress has vested in the United States Olympic Committee (the "**USOC**") the exclusive power to control all uses of the word "Olympics" within the United States. The Amateur Sports Act authorizes the USOC to grant membership status to other organizations which conduct amateur athletic training and competition programs for individuals with disabilities. 36 U.S.C. §374(13). Pursuant to this authority, the USOC has extended "Committee E" membership in the USOC to SOI. As part of this membership, the USOC has licensed SOI to use the term "Olympics" as part of the term "Special Olympics" in organizing and conducting local, area, state and national sports training and competition programs within the United States for persons with intellectual disabilities. SOI and each U.S. Program has a solemn obligation to the USOC, both in conducting their own affairs and in dealing with third parties, to guard against the unauthorized or inappropriate use of the term "Special Olympics," and to conduct the Special Olympics program in accordance with the high ideals of the Olympic movement. Each U.S. Program agrees to fulfill these responsibilities by accepting accreditation from SOI, as provided in its Accreditation License and Article 6 of the General Rules.

RELATIONSHIP WITH NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

Within the United States, SOI has been designated by the USOC as the National Governing Body/Disabled Sports organization for athletes with intellectual disabilities. SOI discharges those responsibilities in accordance with the rules and procedures of the USOC. SOI also maintains active relationships with the National Olympic Committees of nations outside the United States.

RELATIONSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS AND NATIONAL SPORTS GOVERNING BODIES

RULES OF INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS

International Sports Federations are organizations which are recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the world governing bodies for their respective sports. These International Sports Federations comprise, in turn, National Sports Governing Bodies, which govern and oversee particular sports within their respective countries. SOI requires Accredited Programs and GOCs to follow the rules for specific sports which are issued from time to time



Section 5.08

Display of Commercial Messages at Games and Prohibition of the Display of National Flags

5.08 (a)

Commercial Messages on Athlete Uniforms and Competition Numbers

In order to avoid commercial exploitation of persons with intellectual disabilities at World, Regional or Multi-Program level Games, no uniforms, and no bibs or other signs bearing competition numbers, which are worn by Special Olympics athletes while competing or during any opening, closing, or award ceremonies of any Games may be emblazoned with commercial names or commercial messages. The only commercial markings which may be displayed on athletes' and coaches uniforms during Games competitions and opening and closing ceremonies are the normal commercial markings of the manufacturer. For purposes of this Section 5.08(a), "normal commercial markings" are limited to the following:

- (1) On larger clothing items, such as shirts, jackets, pants, jerseys, and sweatshirts, one logo or commercial name per clothing item is permissible, if that name or logo display does not exceed an area of six square inches or 38.7 square centimeters (such as a display measuring 2" x 3" or 5.08 cm x 7.62 cm);
- (2) On small clothing items, such as caps, socks, hats, gloves and belts, one logo or commercial name per clothing item is permissible, if that name or display does not exceed an area of three square inches or 19.35 square centimeters; and
- (3) On athletic shoes, no logos or commercial names are permissible except for names or logos which are included by the manufacturer on athletic shoes which are sold to the general public.

5.08 (b)

Commercial Markings on Other Athlete Apparel or Accessories

Special Olympics athletes who are not engaged in competition or in opening/closing ceremonies may wear, carry or use at Games venues other than the sites of competition (such as at training or practice sessions) clothing and/or non-apparel items which are not part of their sports equipment (such as tote bags), which contain small and attractively designed identifications of corporate or organizational sponsors.

**5.08 (c)*****Displays of Commercial Messages by Volunteers***

Volunteers may wear clothing which bears small and attractively designed names or logos identifying corporate or organizational sponsors while attending Games competitions, so long as those displays do not exceed an area of six square inches or its metric equivalent.

5.08 (d)***Displays of Commercial Messages by Sports Officials***

Sports officials may not wear, carry or use clothing or other apparel items which contain the names or logos of corporate or organizational sponsors (except for the normal commercial markings permitted under subsection (a) above) during the opening or closing ceremonies of any Games, at the sites of any Games competition or demonstration, or while officiating at any Games competition or demonstration. At other times, or at Games venues other than the sites of opening and closing ceremonies, competitions or demonstrations (such as at the sites of training and practice sessions), officials may wear, carry or use clothing or other items which contain sponsors' names or logos if those displays comply with those permitted to be displayed by volunteers under Section 5.08(c).

5.08 (e)***Displays of Commercial Messages at Opening Ceremonies***

The opening ceremonies of all Games shall celebrate the athletic skill, accomplishments, and courage of Special Olympics athletes in a colorful atmosphere of dignity and joy consistent with the Olympic spirit and the Founding Principles. It is the policy of SOI that no banners or other signage bearing the names of commercial sponsors or their products or otherwise recognizing the support of commercial sponsors or their products may be displayed at the site of the opening ceremonies of any World Games, Regional Games, or Multi-Program Games. Accredited Programs may permit commercial banners and signage at their opening ceremonies if such banners and signage are subordinate to Special Olympics pageantry, do not violate any other provision of this Section 5.08, and are in utmost good taste.

5.08 (f)***Displays of Commercial Messages at Other Games Venues***

SOI, a GOC, or an Accredited Program may display, or permit others to display, banners or other signage recognizing the support of commercial sponsors at competition venues, at the venue where closing ceremonies are held, and at venues of Games events other than opening ceremonies, so long as such displays otherwise comply with the General Rules and the other Uniform Standards.

**5.08 (g)*****Prohibition and Display of National Flags***

To comply with Special Olympics Founding Principles that Special Olympics transcend national origin and political philosophy, no national flags shall be displayed and no national anthems shall be sung or otherwise performed by any athletes, coaches, or other members of any Accredited Program's Official Delegation at any World, Regional or Multi-Program level Games event. A GOC may, however, display the flags of those nations competing in World or Regional Games and the flag of the host nation at opening, closing and award ceremonies and Games venues.

5.08 (h)***Prohibition of Face Painting***

Special Olympics Athletes, coaches and volunteers shall not paint their faces during competitions, Games, opening and closing ceremonies, at awards venues or victory banquets. This prohibition includes a prohibition against a display of commercial messages and the display of national flags painted on the face.

5.08 (i)***Clowns***

SOI, a GOC, or an Accredited Program shall ensure that clowns shall be restricted to Olympic town entertainment events and are prohibited from appearing at or participating in competitions, Games, opening and closing ceremonies, award venues, sports venues or victory banquets.

5.08 (j)***Mascots***

SOI, a GOC, or an Accredited Program shall ensure that Mascots shall observe the dignity of certain events during competitions and Games, including the reciting of the oaths, the raising of the flags, and the lighting of the cauldron at Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies. Mascots shall not participate in award ceremonies other than to congratulate athletes following the presentation of awards.

Section 5.09
Alcohol and Tobacco Policy**5.09 (a)*****Use of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Products***

No Accredited Program shall knowingly permit the use of any alcohol or tobacco products at any Special Olympics training or competition venue.



3.06(e)

Advancement of Athletes during Competition

Accredited Programs shall comply with the criteria and procedures in the SOI Sports Rules in determining the circumstances under which Special Olympics athletes may advance from one level of competition within Special Olympics to the next-higher competition level, such as advancement from participation in Sub-Program Games to multi-Program Games, or from multi-Program Games to Regional Games or World Games. Accredited Programs shall implement the advancement criteria set out in the SOI Sports Rules in a manner which gives athletes of all ability levels an equal opportunity to advance to the next higher level of competition within Special Olympics.

Section 3.07 Awards

3.07(a)

Rules for Distribution of Awards

Awards shall be distributed during Games and Tournaments only in accordance with these General Rules and the SOI Sports Rules. At all Multi-Program Games, Regional Games, World Games and any other Games or events sanctioned by SOI, medals shall be presented to the first, second, and third-place winners in each event, and ribbons shall be presented to athletes who finish in fourth through eighth place. Athletes who are disqualified (for reasons other than unsportsmanlike conduct or violations of the divisioning requirements of the SOI Sports Rules) or who do not finish an event shall be presented with a participation ribbon.

3.07 (b) (SEE U.S. SPECIFIC RULES)

Awards Ceremonies

All awards ceremonies conducted during Games and Tournaments shall have as their focus the dignity and accomplishments of the participating athletes, and shall be conducted in a solemn and colorful manner which resembles, as much as is reasonably practicable, the awards ceremonies conducted during Olympic competitions.



Article 1

Sport Rules

Special Olympics





Athletes who are disqualified (for reasons other than unsportsmanlike conduct) or who do not finish an event shall be presented with a participation ribbon.

12.2 Ties

12.2.1 In the case of a tie, each athlete or team that has achieved the same result shall receive the same award for the highest place earned. For example, two athletes who tie for third place shall each receive the bronze medal. Athletes or teams that follow shall receive the appropriate award for their order of finish. For example, an athlete who crossed the finish line fourth shall receive the fourth place ribbon, regardless of whether the athletes who preceded him or her tied. As a result, a tie for one place will result in no award being given for the next place – a tie for first place means there is no second place recipient.

12.3 Special Recognition

12.3.1 In addition to medals and ribbons, athletes may receive special recognition for significant accomplishments (e.g., Highest Pins Over Average, Most Improved Athlete, Personal Bests, Sportsmanship, etc.) following the official awards ceremony. Official Medals and Ribbons may only be awarded to athletes based on competition results and may not be presented as gifts or tokens of appreciation to sponsors, guests, coaches, etc.

12.4 Mementos

12.4.1 All athletes at a competition may be presented with a memento in recognition of their attendance at that event. These mementos, however, shall not be similar to the competitive awards presented to athletes at the event.

12.5 Team Sports

12.5.1 Team trophies may be awarded to teams at any Special Olympics competition.

12.5.2 When athletes or teams are divisioned with athletes or teams of the opposite gender, they shall receive awards in order of placement within that division.

12.5.3 Entire teams or individual members of a team disqualified from the entire competition for unsportsmanlike conduct shall not receive an award of any kind. This does not include those athletes ejected from one round of competition who are allowed to return to play in the next round or team play.

12.6 Awards Ceremonies

12.6.1 Awards Ceremonies shall be conducted in accordance with the Special Olympics Awards Protocol.

13. CRITERIA FOR ADVANCEMENT TO HIGHER LEVEL COMPETITION

13.1 Fundamental Principle

13.1.1 Athletes of all ability levels have an equal opportunity to advance to the next higher level competition provided the sport and event are offered at the next higher level of competition.

13.2 Eligibility for Advancement

13.2.1 An athlete is eligible to advance to the next competition provided she or he has:

13.2.1.1 Participated in the previous level of competition (e.g., an athlete must compete in Program level Games before advancing to the World Games), with the following exception:

13.2.1.2 An athlete or team for which there has been no competition opportunity at a Tournament or Games shall be eligible to advance to the next level of competition if one or more of the following criteria apply:



- 13.2.1.2.1 There is low enrollment of athletes/teams within the Program structure;
 - 13.2.1.2.2 The opportunity to provide equitable competition within the Program structure is low or non-existent;
 - 13.2.1.2.3 It is cost prohibitive for the Program to conduct the event or competition within its Program structure; or
 - 13.2.1.2.4 The athletes or teams have been training or competing in mainstream competition.
 - 13.2.2 Training and competition must be in the same sport the athlete will participate in at the next level of competition.
 - 13.2.3 If additional events within that sport are available at the next level of competition, athletes must receive proper training.
 - 13.3 Procedure for Athlete Team and Coach Selection
 - 13.3.1 Programs must publish the process and criteria in advance.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 13.3.4 If the number of eligible athletes or teams does not exceed the quota, all athletes and teams shall advance.
 - 13.3.5 If the number of eligible athletes or teams exceeds the quota, athletes or teams that advance shall be selected as follows:
 - 13.3.5.1 Priority is given to first-place finishers from all divisions of the sport and/or event. If the number of first-place finishers exceeds the quota, select athletes or teams to advance by random draw.
 - 13.3.5.2 If there are not enough first-place finishers to fill the quota, all first-place finishers shall advance. The remaining quota shall be filled by a random draw of second place finishers from all divisions of the sport and/or event.
 - 13.3.5.3 If the quota is large enough for all second-place finishers to advance, the remaining quota shall be filled by a random draw of third place finishers from all divisions of the sport and/or event.
 - 13.3.5.4 Repeat this process, adding each place of finish as necessary, until the quota is filled.
 - 13.3.5.5 These procedures apply to both individual and team sports, including Unified Sports.
 - 13.3.6 Accredited Programs are encouraged to develop selection criteria for coaches based on certification, technical background and practical experience that will enhance the competitive experience of Special Olympics athletes. SOI shall have the right to review a Program's selection criteria.
 - 13.4 Adherence
 - 13.4.1 The criteria for athlete advancement is an essential component of the Special Olympics movement. Under extraordinary circumstances when the criteria cannot be met, authority to deviate from established procedures may be requested, provided the alternate



selection procedures do not conflict with the Fundamental Principle of athlete advancement.

- 13.4.2 Accredited Programs may request authorization to add additional criteria for advancement based on behavior, medical or judicial considerations and/or to deviate from these advancement procedures due to the size or nature of their Program.
- 13.4.3 Requests to deviate from the established procedures must be submitted in writing as follows:
 - 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.
 - 13.4.3.2 For advancement to Competitions at or below the Program Level: The Accredited Program will consider and approve or disapprove all requests. SOI shall have the right to review approved deviations.

14. Special Olympics UNIFIED SPORTS®

14.1 Unified Sports Models

- 14.1.1 Special Olympics Unified Sports includes three inclusive sports models that involve individuals with and without intellectual disabilities. They are Unified Sports, Unified Sports Player Development and Unified Sports Recreation. In all three, athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) participate together as teammates. All three models have social inclusion as the core outcome, but the structure and format of each model varies. Regardless of the model, Unified Sports teams should never be comprised solely of people with disabilities.
- 14.1.2 Unified Sports Competitive
 - 14.1.2.1 The Unified Sports Competitive model combines approximately equal numbers of Special Olympics athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) as teammates on sport teams for training and competition. All athletes and partners on a Unified Sports Competitive team must have attained the necessary sport-specific skills and tactics to compete without modification of the current Special Olympics Official Sports Rules. A Unified Sport team is an inclusive sports program with approximately equal numbers of athletes and partners. Athletes and partners must be of similar age and ability for all team sports. Please see 14.3 Special Olympics Competitive Sport-Specific Parameters at the end of this section. For individual sports, athletes and partners must be of similar age and ability in Badminton, Kayaking, Table Tennis, Tennis, Figure Skating and Short Track Speed Skating. For all other individual sports, the requirements for age and ability matching vary as defined on a sport-by-sport basis in section 14.3.
 - 14.1.2.2 Unified Sports Competitive model teams are eligible to compete at Regional and World Games.
- 14.1.3 Unified Sports Player Development
 - 14.1.3.1 The Unified Sports Player Development model combines approximately equal numbers of Special Olympics athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) as teammates on sport teams for training and competition. In Unified Sports Player Development, teammates are not required to be of similar abilities. Players of higher ability will assist teammates of lower ability in developing sport-specific skills and