

<b>Section:</b>	<b>COMPETITIONS</b>	<b>6000-01</b>
<b>Topic:</b>	<b>SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ATHLETES ADVANCING TO HIGHER LEVELS OF COMPETITIONS</b>	
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<b>Revised Date:</b>	<b>December 2022</b>	

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### ***Policy Intent***

*Special Olympics Prince Edward Island (SOPEI) has the responsibility to organize, develop and select athletes and teams to represent SOPEI at Local, Provincial, and National Games. This policy further describes SOPEI's procedures governing the selection of athletes representing PEI using the Pan-Canadian Athlete Identification for Competition Selection Policy.*

### **Application of this Policy**

This Policy applies to all SOPEI athletes seeking selection for advancement to various levels of competition representing a SOPEI Team and those athletes selected to a SOPEI Team.

### **Team Size**

Team size will be dictated by the host province or organizing committee of the Special Olympics (SO) sanctioned event. Quotas (max roster sizes) are provided to SOPEI by the SO sanctioned event organizers. *For example, see Pan Canadian Quota Allocation Policy.* When this is not the case, an adhoc selection committee will have the discretion to name a larger team that will include a greater number of athletes, or to name a smaller team due to resource constraints.

### **Team PEI Roster Announcement for National Games**

SOPEI will announce athlete and team selections for National Games by posting the Official Team list and by contacting selected athletes directly via letter. No athlete, coach, volunteer, parent, or Special Olympics PEI staff will presume or announce that an athlete, team, or coach has been selected to Team PEI until an "OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT" is made.

### **Athlete Criteria for advancing to various levels of Competitions/Camps**

The following further outlines the criteria for athletes to attend various levels of competition. In SOPEI, this includes all athletes, from all ability levels who have identified a desire for competitive opportunities and are actively training within the timeframe(s) described. Athlete's performance at the sanctioned qualifying event will be used for the selection process to higher levels of completion by applying the Pan-Canadian Identification for Competition Selection Policy.

### **Selection Process**

SOPEI will use the following Pan-Canadian Policies during the Eligibility, Identification, Endorsement, and final Selection processes:

- Pan-Canadian Eligibility for Participation Policy;
- Pan-Canadian Eligibility for Participants with Down Syndrome Policy;
- Pan-Canadian Athlete Identification for Competition Selection Policy; and
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- Pan Canadian Endorsement PT National Policy
- Pan Canadian Endorsement World Games Policy

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### **Selection Process for Basketball, Curling, Floor Hockey, Soccer, or Softball**

If there is a minimum of four (4) competitive teams who are registered to compete at a SOPEI-sanctioned qualifying event in the sports of Basketball, Curling, Floor Hockey, Soccer or Softball; SOPEI will use the following Pan-Canadian Policies during the Eligibility, Identification, Endorsement, and final Selection processes:

- Pan-Canadian Eligibility for Participation Policy;
- Pan-Canadian Eligibility for Participants with Down Syndrome Policy;
- Pan-Canadian Athlete Identification for Competition Selection Policy; and
- Pan-Canadian Endorsement PT National Policy
- Pan-Canadian Endorsement World Games Policy

If there are not a minimum of four (4) competitive teams who are registered to compete at a SOPEI-sanctioned qualifying event in the sports of Basketball, Curling, Floor Hockey, Soccer or Softball; SOPEI will use the following method to select the team(s) to represent the chapter:

1. Athletes who have met the eligibility requirements in the Pan-Canadian Eligibility for Participation Policy and selected the competitive sport, intending to qualify for advancement to higher levels of competition, will be notified of a date for a chapter skills competition.
2. All athletes who attend the chapter skills competition will be provided the same opportunity to complete the same pre-identified individual skills for their sport.
3. In addition to the individual skills, all coaches of the competitive programs for the sport will be provided with the opportunity to score each athlete for the same pre-identified intangibles skills, each scored in a 5 point scale. Scores submitted by each coach for each individual athlete is totaled and divided by the number of coaches who submitted a score. This becomes the athlete's average intangible skills score.
4. Scores for the individual skills and average intangible skills are totaled and athletes are listed from highest to lowest total score. Athletes will be identified for the endorsement process by an ad-hoc selection committee based on the majority ability level present.
5. Once an eligible athlete has been identified to attend an SO-sanctioned event, the athlete must still be endorsed to attend (see the Pan-Canadian Endorsement PT National Policy). If an athlete is endorsed, the selection process is complete. If quota permits, additional teams will also be selected using the same method.

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#### **LOCAL SANCTIONED EVENTS**

- The Athlete must be ten (10) years of age as of the first day of the program;
- The Athlete must be registered with SOPEI and be a member in good standing;
- The Athlete must meet the criteria outlined in the Pan-Canadian Eligibility for Participation and Eligibility for Participants with Down Syndrome Policies; and
- The Athlete must be actively training, including regular attendance at the program set by the coach at the start of the program, in a Special Olympics Competitive Sport Program specific to the sport they choose to compete in at a SO-sanctioned event, in the current program year.
- Final selection is the responsibility of the SOPEI Office. Factors may include quota provided by the SO-sanctioned event organizing committee or endorsement. For any considerations related to endorsement, SOPEI will use the Pan-Canadian Endorsement PT National Policy.

#### **PROVINCIAL AND INTER-PROVINCIAL SANCTIONED EVENTS**

- The Athlete must meet all the criteria for Local Sanctioned Events;
- The Athlete must be twelve (13) years of age as of the first day of the sanctioned event;
- The Athlete must have been training in the sport that they are seeking selection for a minimum of two (2) sport seasons (minimum of eight (8) weeks per season) prior to the SO-sanctioned qualifier event identified for their sport;
- The Athlete must have competed in one SO-sanctioned qualifying event, either an organization-sanctioned competition or an integrated/parallel Games/Competition within the able-bodied sport system within one program year preceding the SO-sanctioned qualifying event; and
- Final selection is the responsibility of the SOPEI Office. Factors may include quota provided by the SO-sanctioned event organizing committee or endorsement. For any considerations related to endorsement, SOPEI will use the Pan-Canadian Endorsement PT National Policy.

### **NATIONAL SANCTIONED EVENTS**

- The Athlete must meet all the criteria for Provincial and Inter-Provincial Sanctioned Events;
- Must be thirteen (14) years of age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year the National SO-sanctioned event;
- The Athlete must be a permanent resident of PEI or a landed immigrant;
- Final selections are determined by an ad-hoc selection committee based on performance at the SO-sanctioned qualifying event, the quota provided by the organizing committee, and by utilizing the Pan-Canadian Athlete Identification for Competition Selection and Pan-Canadian Endorsement PT National Policy;
- The Athlete must be eligible to participate as per the rules of the National SO sanctioned event;
- The Athlete must have been training in the sport that they are seeking selection for a minimum of three (3) sport seasons (minimum of eight (8) weeks per season) prior to the National SO sanctioned event;
- The Athlete must have competed in the SO-sanctioned qualifying event within the year proceeding the National SO-sanctioned event in that particular sport;
- The Athlete must attend all selection camps, if any, as required;
- The Athlete must be willing to commit to Team PEI training the year leading up to the National SO-sanctioned event; and

### **WORLD GAMES**

- The Athlete must meet all the criteria for National SO sanctioned event;
- The Athlete must be fourteen (15) years of age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year the World SO sanctioned event;
- The Athlete must have competed at the National SO-sanctioned event the year preceding the World Games;
- The Athlete must have been training in the sport that they are seeking selection for a minimum of four (4) sport seasons (minimum of eight (8) weeks per season) prior to the World Games;
- The Athlete must be willing to commit to Team Canada training the year leading up to World Games;
- Final selection is the responsibility of Special Olympics Canada (SOC) based on performance at the qualifying event, the quota provided by the organizing committee, and by utilizing the Pan-Canadian Athlete Identification for Competition Selection and Pan-Canadian Endorsement World Games Policy.

### **Provincial Team Athlete Requirements to Remain Selected and Outline of the Removal Process**

Upon official selection and in order to remain on Team PEI an athlete must:

- a) Sign an Athlete Training Agreement;
- b) Provide to SOPEI all required documents (medical forms, registration forms, athlete agreement, copy of passport, etc.);
- c) Participate in all team events, including at least one local fundraiser, team activities and meetings;
- d) Obey all rules established by SOPEI and SOC;
- e) Adhere to the Pan-Canadian Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy
- f) Assist Special Olympics PEI in public relations and fundraising projects where required.

Once selected to a team, an athlete may withdraw or be withdrawn for the following reasons:

- a) Not satisfying the minimum training standards set out by the Head Coach;
- b) Failure to adhere to team rules, the signed Athlete Training Agreement, or the Pan-Canadian Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy;
- c) Remain competitive-ready leading up to the event. Athletes who do not remain competitive-ready by reason of lack of fitness, injury or illness may be removed from the team. It is the obligation of the athlete to immediately report any injury, illness or change in training that could affect their ability to compete at their highest level.
- d) Voluntary withdrawal/retirement;
- e) Fraudulent misrepresentation.

Prior to the competition, where an athlete is unable to meet training standards, competitive readiness, violates team rules or the Pan-Canadian Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy, or provides fraudulent misrepresentations, the ad-hoc selection committee will have the discretion to remove the athlete from the Team and to replace the athlete with another suitable candidate. The adhoc selection committee shall apply the processes and procedures outlined in the Pan-Canadian Discipline and Complaints Policy as well as direction from the Pan-Canadian Discipline Procedure Flowchart Policy.

Due to the nature of Provincial/National SO-sanctioned events, during Provincial/National Games with Team PEI, the Team Chef de Mission or Special Olympics PEI Executive Director may make decisions to remove or discipline an athlete in the best interests of Team PEI and by taking into considerations the spirit of the processes and procedures outlined in the Pan-Canadian Discipline and Complaints Policy as well as the Pan-Canadian Discipline Procedure Flowchart Policy. Following the SO-sanctioned event, a formal procedure shall continue which may result in further action.

Any appeals shall follow the Pan-Canadian Appeal Policy and be directed by the Pan-Canadian Appeal Procedure Flowchart Policy.