

Sport Rules Article 1: 2020 Changes



Sport Classification Change

Transitioning from sport the designations of “Official” and “Recognized” to a dynamic data driven level system that ensures that sports in the highest level are automatically included in World Game and the flexibility to include other sports based on strategic priorities for SOI and/or the LOC. This change will help create a sport development pathway with support from sport federation partners that will increase the quality of sport while responding to main stream sport popularity trends

Similar Age Ranges for Unified Team Composition

As Unified Sports is primarily focused on changing attitudes, creating genuine friendships and building a peer support network through inclusive sport it has become necessary to more clearly define what “similar” age is. These age ranges have been approved by the Sport Rules and Unified Sports committees to more better align with mainstream sport age groups while allowing some flexibility in line with typical school groups.

Sport Rules Article 1 Changes



Article 1 Rule: 5.1-5.7 Classification of Special Olympics Sports (and sub rules)

Rule Modification: The updating of the Sport Classification chart was approved in 2018 and with final edits inputted in 2020.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
World Games	Automatic inclusion in World Games	Eligible for inclusion in World Games as determined by SOI Sports Department or if proposed by an LOC and approved by SOI	Eligible for inclusion in World Games as determined by SOI Sports Department or if proposed by an LOC approved by SOI	Eligible for inclusion in World Games as determined by SOI Sports Department or if proposed by an LOC and approved by SOI
Program Participation-Summer Sports	At least 110 Accredited Programs conduct this summer sport at Program level Games and those Programs represent 7 Regions	At least 55 Accredited Programs conduct this summer sport at Program level Games and those programs represent at least 4 regions	At least 12 Accredited Programs conduct this summer sport at Program level Games and those Programs represent at least 2 regions	At least 1 Accredited Program conducts this summer sport at Program level Games
Program Participation-Winter Sports	At least 35 Accredited Programs conduct the winter sport at Program level Games and those Programs represent at least 4 regions	At least 20 Accredited Programs conduct the winter sport at Program level Games and those Programs represent at least 3 regions	Same as Summer Sports above	Same as Summer Sports above
Athlete - Partner Participation	Minimum number of athlete/Partners 100k for summer and 10k for winter	Minimum number of athlete/partners is 20k for summer and 5k for winter	Minimum number of athlete/partners is 1k	Minimum number of athlete/partners 100
Federation Recognition	An International Federation is recognized by Global Association of International Federations (GAISF)	An International Federation is recognized by GAISF	An International Federation is recognized by GAISF	A National Governing Body is in place
Rules	Standardized Special Olympics rules are published and uniformly enforced at Program, Regional and World Games competitions	Standardized Special Olympics rules are published and uniformly enforced at Program, Regional and World Games competitions	Standardized Special Olympics rules are published and uniformly enforced at National Program competitions	Special Olympics rules are enforced at Program level competitions
Coaching	SOI Approved Coaching Resources	SOI Approved Coaching Resources	SOI Approved Coaching Resources	Accredited Program Coaching Resources
Medical	SOI Medical Advisory Committee has conducted a Health and Safety Risk Assessment	SOI Medical Advisory Committee has conducted a Health and Safety Risk Assessment	SOI Medical Advisory Committee has conducted a Health and Safety Risk Assessment	Accredited SO Program has conducted a Health and Safety Risk assessment

Article 1 Rule: 14.1.2.2 & 14.1.2.3 – Unified Age Ranges in Team Composition

Rule Addition: Similar Age Requirements for Competitive and Player Development Models in the composition of teams at the local level

- 14.1.3.2.1 If any member of a team is between the ages of 8 -13, the variance between the youngest and oldest member of the team must be no more than 3 years.
- 14.1.3.2.2. If any member of a team is between the ages of 14 -17 the variance between the youngest and oldest member of the team must be no more than 5 years.
- 14.1.3.2.3 If all the members of a team are 18 and older the variance between the youngest and oldest member of the team should be no more than 20 years.

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Rule: 2.6 Statement of Participation: Rule Addition: Add in statement regarding penalties for failing to play all eligible team members

Rule: 8.4.7 Jury: Rule Modification: change terminology from 'should to must' for rule implementation consistency

Rule: 10.5.1.3.2 Resolving Divisioning Issues: Deletion of duplicate information regarding final divisions of less than three athletes or teams

Rule: 12.2.1 Ties: Rule Modification: Under Awards Section clarified that each sport will follow sport-specific criteria for ties, but if placement is not defined, competitors each receive the highest award for that place.

Rule: 14.1.2.1 Unified Sports Competitive: Rule Modification: Under Special Olympics Unified Sports Competitive Model, there were additions to clarify meaningful involvement with a focus on the definition of similar age, meaning a comparable range.

Rule: 14.3 SO Unified Sports Competitive and Player Development Sport-Specific Parameters Chart: Event Addition: Added Open Water Swimming (Pairs) and Swimming (Relays).

Rule: Section A-5: Updated New Special Olympics Proposed Rule Change Form