



## **Special Olympics, Inc. June 2020**

### **Sports Rules Advisory Committee Decisions & Highlights**

With the recent organization restructure the Sports Rules & Sports Rules Advisory Committee (SRAC) will continue to fall under the oversight of the Sports Department. However, Sports will continue to collaborate with the Games & Competition Department to ensure that they have a representative on the committee. Additionally, of the 13 current members of the SRAC, three individuals have concluded their terms of service and we are working on confirming replacements for the next rules cycle.

In January 2020, the SRAC & Sports Resource Teams (SRT) reviewed 145 rules proposals submitted covering Sports Rules Article 1 and Sport-specific Sports Rules. During the SRAC meetings held January 2020, these submissions were reviewed with recommendations. While many rules changes were minor or technical and based on sport specificity, there were also some significant discussions around Article 1 and a number of areas to be discussed with potential for future impact on Sports Rules. This rules cycle oversaw the addition of two events within sports, Unified competition additions, and the approval of Global sport rules for DanceSport.

The SRAC reviewed the Special Olympics' General Rules for all topics relating to sport and competition as requested by the SOI general rules committee. SOI general rule committee recommended 32 Special Olympics' general revisions for review.

General discussion on the following topics received SRAC recommendations and feedback for: Sport Resource Teams and Operational Guidelines, Easy Read Formatting, and Sport Rules Review Cycles (remain as is).

#### **Article I – Sports Rules: Major Outcomes**

- Added: Classifications of Special Olympics Sports, was approved in 2018 and edits inputted in 2020.
- Change: Removing the verbiage “potential” and adding disqualification in Statement of Participation
- Change: Jury decisions must be based on rules and specific circumstances for each protest.
- Remove: Final divisioning of less than three athletes or teams under the Resolving Divisioning Issues section
- Change: Under Awards Section - Ties - Each sport will follow sport-specific criteria related to ties. If this is not defined and athletes or teams tie for any place, they each receive the highest award for that place. As a result, a tie for one place will result in no award being given for the following place.



- Changes: Under Special Olympics Unified Sports – In the Unified Sports Competitive added meaningful involvement, added knowledge tactics, removed definition of Unified Sport team, added definition of similar.
  - Added: Similar age requirements for Competitive Models and Player Development
    - 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.
    - 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 3 years.
    - If all members of a team are 18 and older the variance between the youngest and oldest member of the team should be more than 20 years.
- Add: Under Special Olympics Unified Sports Competitive Sport- Specific Parameters – Added Open Water Swimming (Pairs) and Swimming (Relays).
- Updated: International Sport Federations
- Proposed: Change of Motor Activity Training Program – Follow up is required with Global Leadership Team

#### **New Events Added within the following sports:**

- Basketball – Half Court Basketball: 3-on-3 Competition
  - Including Unified Sport Competition Team
- Football – 8-a-side Team (outdoor) Competition
  - Including Unified Sports 8-a-side Team Competition

#### **Sport Specific Rules Changes:**

##### **Athletics**

- Change order of Athletics Pentathlon and change from 400 to 800mm.

##### **Badminton**

- Edited terminology

##### **Basketball**

- Added size of ball
- Rule shift to different section
- Edited terminology
- Clarify individual skills rules
- Edited how to indicate the start of a test will begin
- Changed that two free throws will awarded after the 4<sup>th</sup> foul
- Modified Head Covering rule
- Added new event: Half Court Competition: 3 on 3



- Added an exception to 5 on 5 Unified Sports Event lineup ratios
- Combined rules for clarification

### **Bocce**

- Changed end walls to be 150 millimeters (12in) and side walls to be 80 millimeters (3.15 inches)
- Changing where the pallina is placed for measurements.
- Changed tosses to rolls
- Changed Tournament Director/Event Manager to Competition Manager
- Allowed coaches to speak with athletes during first two practice balls and during coaches' time outs.
- Added coaches to those who can sign scorecards
- Edited terminology

### **Cycling**

- Changed Unified Team Time Trial maximum distance to 25K
- Changed Helmet safety regulation
- Added any Team entered in an unified event must be all wearing the same uniform

### **DanceSport**

- Formatted Rules to Align with SOI.

### **Equestrian**

- Added in Rules of Competition that under no circumstances should sedatives be used on horses.

### **Floorball**

- Added goggles must be IFF approved to personal equipment sections
- Added playing with lower leg to an offense to a 2-minute bench penalty
- Deleted head from an offense to a 2 minute bench penalty
- Added with the stick to face off
- Added to offenses that lead to a free hit
- Removed "If a penalty shot is awarded during a delayed penalty or caused by an offense leading to a penalty, the rules concerning penalties in connection with a penalty shot shall also be applied" from penalty shot section
- Added that penalty shots will be started with the stick and taken from the center spot
- Removed "but the ball has to be in a forward movement during the entire penalty shot" from penalty shot section

### **Football**

- Added event: 8-a-side Team



- Added all fouls result in an indirect free kick (except penalties kick)
- Added lineup rations to 8-a-side Unified team

### **Handball**

- Adding the use of glue or adhesive is not allowed
- Adding exception of a two minute suspension to Unified Sports Team Competition Rules

### **Judo**

- Changed divisioning titles
- Changed description of Waza techniques
- Changed Official weight categories in all levels
- Add that levels can be merged at a tournament if not all levels can be offered
- Changed the language of start of the contest
- Added backwards throws to prohibited techniques
- Removed red belt and changed to blue belt
- Added Shidos to forbidden actions
- Removed Grabbing and Touching
- Added Coaching element
- Added Unified Kata as an option to tournaments

### **Open Water Swimming**

- Removed Wetsuits exceptions

### **Powerlifting**

- Changed rules to align with IPF rules

### **Rhythmic Gymnastics**

- Removed Rope from Level 4

### **Roller Skating**

- Added to start procedure, the starter judge will say “in position”.
- Changed Timekeeping
- Added the starting line dimension and that each participant is given a minimum of 80 cm to 100cm of a starting box.

### **Sailing**

- Added The World of Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing and Member Authority (MNA) prescriptions.
- Added sailing instructions to notice of race.
- Removed Boats section
- Changed Scoring section
- Removed three races from the divisioning races
- Removed the Race Committee may elect to carry divisioning race scores to other races



- Changed order of personnel

### **Short Track Speed Skating**

- Changed the rules on interference

### **Softball**

- Removed unified batter runner rule.
- Changed the disqualified or ejected participant effect

### **Tennis**

- Changed to ITN Number and ITN Final score in divisioning
- Edited terminology
- Removed one tie break game rule
- Format changes
- Removed team who wins by 6 games with a margin of two games wins the set from match play section
- Reordered No-Ad Scoring
- Changed individual skills competition to level 1 comprised of 7 skill tests.
- Added new reference videos

### **Beach Volleyball**

- Sport technical changes based on international federation rules and safety guidelines.