

# Club to State Qualification Criterion

***Special  
Olympics***  
*Australia*



## **Competition Pathway**

Local competitions to National Games

**Qualification Criteria for athletes to attend State Games:** conducted as a qualifying event for SOA National Games.

### **Timing and Sanction by the State Committee:**

Events must be sanctioned by each state committee who are responsible for overseeing the state competition calendar. Sanctioning ensures that the events meet the necessary standards and criteria for progressing to the next level of competition.

State games qualifying events must be sanctioned by the State Committee and be run within twelve months prior the State games Event.

For states running annual State Games the State games qualifying events must fall between each scheduled State Games Events.

Intra-club events must be sanctioned by the state committee prior to them taking place and be placed on the state calendar

We are pleased to provide you with the qualification criteria for participation in your upcoming State Games.

The primary criterion for athlete eligibility is "participation in a minimum of 2 club events." Here are the detailed criteria:

### **Minimum Participation in Club Events:**

Athletes and affiliate athletes must have actively participated in a minimum of 2 club events which is the same sport or discipline they wish to qualify for at the state games.

### **Intra-Club and Inter-Club Events:**

The purpose of this document is to encourage athletes to be actively involved in their club's activities, whether those events are internal to the club or involve competition with other clubs. This can help in the development of the athletes' skills and ensure their active participation in their sport and the sports pathway.

Athletes can use either intra-club events (events within their own club standalone or with the inclusion of the neighbouring club) or inter-club events (events involving multiple clubs) to fulfill this requirement.

### **Access to Nominated Inter-Club and Intra-Club Events:**

Some athletes may not have access to certain inter-club events for various reasons such as cost, distance, or other factors.

This document outlines the flexibility within the club and state events structure. Athletes shall have the opportunity to participate in both intra-club and inter-club events.

Clubs can host their intra-club events to accommodate athletes who may not have access to nominated inter-club events. This provides a range of opportunities for athletes to compete and engage in their sport.

Please note Inter-club events should take precedence over intra-club events as qualifying events for state games. Intra-club events shall only be utilised when it is geographically and financially difficult for athletes to attend Inter-club events. At all times the state committee should actively seek solutions to support both athletes and clubs to attend inter-club events.

### **Inter-Club Events:**

Inter-Club Events: These are events that involve multiple clubs (more than 2). Athletes from different clubs compete against each other.

Inter-club events can be used as qualifying events for state games. Inter-club events typically involve multiple clubs or teams competing against each other. These events provide a competitive platform for athletes to showcase their skills and performance.

To qualify for state games through inter-club events, athletes need to meet specific criteria, such as minimum training standards in their respective sports, training under a qualified coach or instructor and be registered with a Special Olympics club or affiliate.

### **Intra-Club Events:**

Participation in Club Events: This refers to athletes taking part in events organised by their club.

Intra-club events can also be used as qualifying events for state games. Intra-club events are competitions held within a single club. Athletes can use their performance in these events to meet the qualifications for state games.

Here are some common ways in which intra-club events may be used for qualification.

- Events that take place within the same club, meaning club members compete against each other. These events are usually for club members to test their skills and abilities and may be used to prepare athletes for a state event.
- Clubs have the option to organise and host their intra-club events. These events can be integrated into the club's existing programs. It allows athletes within the same club to compete against each other, fostering a sense of community and competition.

### **Special Olympics Divisioning Rules:**

In all cases either inter-club or intra-club events Special Olympics Divisioning rules must be followed, please refer to [Article 1 of the Sports Rules](https://resources.specialolympics.org/sports-essentials/sports-and-coaching/sport-rules-article-1?locale=en) <https://resources.specialolympics.org/sports-essentials/sports-and-coaching/sport-rules-article-1?locale=en>

### **Utilisation of External Sports Providers:**

Delivery of club and state events by utilising external sport providers may meet the requirements of State and Club competition, please seek advice from the SOA sports department.

External providers may be used to assist in the delivery of club and state level events. External provider participation in addition to club-based events should also be directly relevant to the chosen sport or discipline.



**Utilisation of External competition:**

Athletes may use external competitions if Special Olympics competition is not accessible or available to them in both the Intra-club and Inter-club formats. Permission must be granted by the State committee. Evidence of competition and participation results are required and mandatory.

**Advertised as a Nominated Qualifying Event:**

All State events must be nominated and advertised as qualifying events for the National Games. Only the State Committee shall be responsible for the delivery of National Games qualifying events (State Games) and these games must be nominated as a qualifying event when placed on the competition calendar.

**Placement on the State Sports Calendar:**

Events in question (all intra-club/Inter-club and State games events) should be listed on the State sports calendar to inform potential participants of the opportunities to qualify. This ensures accessibility for the broad SO sporting community.

**Submission of Official Entries and Divisioning for Approval:**

Clubs must submit their official entries and divisioning details to their State committee and State specific Sports coordinator for review and approval. Divisions will be checked for compliance. These events shall be forwarded to SOA sports department for entry into the national data base. Divisioning is a crucial step in ensuring fair competition, and approval is essential.

**Notification to SOA by the State Committee:**

The State Committee is responsible for sanctioning all qualifying events and must notify Special Olympics Australia (SOA) of all sanctioned qualifying events. This enables SOA to maintain awareness of the qualification process and provide any necessary oversight.

**Results Submission to SOA:**

All results from all club events, intra/inter-club events and qualifying events must be supplied to the SOA Sports Department for recording purposes. This ensures that a comprehensive record of games and results is maintained.

All events shall be placed in the National Data Base called GMS and utilised as evidence to verify that an athlete has qualified for the State Games or National Games. All State Games results shall be sent to the SOA sports results email address [sportsresults@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:sportsresults@specialolympics.com.au) within 2 weeks of the completion of the event.

Please ensure that you follow the necessary procedures to get your club events, state events and external provider events sanctioned, divisioned, and results submitted to SOA. This will contribute to the transparency and credibility of the qualification process.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the SOA sports department.

We look forward to seeing all athletes participate in nominated events.

## Glossary of Terms

<b>Intra Club</b>	<b>A single event held within a club which may include a neighbouring club</b>
<b>Inter Club</b>	<b>A competition organised for the participation of multiple clubs</b>
<b>External provider</b>	<b>A partner organisation used to aid in the delivery of an event (this may be an affiliate)</b>
<b>Minimum Training Standards</b>	<b>**Minimum training standards: Athletes must reach a level where they have the necessary sports skills and physical fitness to be adequately prepared to compete meaningfully and safely before entering any club or regional competition. This is typically a minimum of 8 sessions under a qualified coach to enable an athlete to reach this standard.</b>
<b>GMS</b>	<b>Special Olympics Games Management System</b>

