



Appendix 1

2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games [2023 SOWSG] Selection Process

Selections for the 2023 SOWSG will take place from the Advancement Competitions that take place in 2022.

Advancement for Individual and Team Sports differ (teams are composite teams). For team sports each athlete undergoes grading assessment. This grade is used for advancement purposes to select a team of similar ability.

Relevant excerpts from the [Regulations Governing Special Olympics Ireland Sport 2021 – 2025 document](#)¹. Modifications to the selection process as a result of the impact of Covid 19 are outlined where necessary in boxes & italics below.

14.4 Selecting athletes for Advancement Competition (Ireland to World Games level i.e. the 2023 SOWSG)

- a. As per the Guidelines [Article 1, Special Olympics General Rules](#) the process of selecting athletes for advancement from Ireland to World Games is through random selection from all eligible athletes, (based on the results with further explanation below 14.5).

2022 Advancement Competitions will be the first and only level prior to selections for the 2023 SOWSG.

- b. Athletes aged 15 and over are eligible to compete at World Games with the exception of gymnastics where the age is 12.
- c. See 14.5: Individual sports advancement process, and 14.6. Team advancement process
- d. To be eligible to advance for **team sports**, all athletes must have played in the prior advancement event (i.e. all players must have game time in both divisioning and final rounds)
- e. To ensure that all regions are represented as part of Team Ireland in **individual sports** the following will apply:
- If a quota of 5 places is available and all regions are eligible, each region will receive an allocation of 1 place each.
 - If the quota is a multiple of 5 and if all 5 regions are eligible, then all regions will receive an equal number of places in rotation, i.e. 10 places. Each region will receive 1 place in rotation, and then each region will receive a second place keeping the same sequence of rotation.
 - Where the quota is greater than the number of regions, but not a multiple of 5, e.g. 8 places and all 5 regions are eligible, each region will receive one place and the

¹ Normally selection is made based on the results of Special Olympics Ireland Summer Games, which take place every four years as this is the highest qualifying event. The 2022 Special Olympics Ireland Summer Games were cancelled due to COVID-19. Therefore, selection will be based on the next highest level of competition that will be held in line with COVID-19 restrictions and health advice. 2022 Advancement events are being used as the highest and only available level of competition to select athletes for all sports.

remaining places will be randomly drawn (fulfilling all other criteria) from all remaining eligible athletes, from all regions combined.

- Where the quota is less than the number of eligible regions (e.g. 5 eligible regions and 4 places), 4 regions will be drawn in sequence. The number of regions equal to the quota (4) will receive a place (in the order in which they were drawn) and the remaining region (the fifth region) will form the first substitute. This region will be given priority for the next sport where this situation applies and therefore will not be “the fifth region” again.
- If the situation above occurs in additional sports, the same process will apply, with the region or regions who did not receive a place, included in the first instance in those sports

14.5 Individual Sports Advancement Process

The Individual Sports for the 2023 SOWSG are as follows: Athletics, Badminton, Bocce, Bowling, Equestrian, Golf, Artistic Gymnastics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Kayaking, Swimming (including Open Water Swimming) and Table Tennis.

- a. Working with the given quota; if the number of eligible athletes does not exceed the quota, all athletes advance.
- b. If the number of eligible gold medallist athletes exceeds the quota, athletes are randomly selected to fill the quota from the gold medal winners.
- c. If there are insufficient gold medallists to fill a quota, all gold medallists advance and then random selection from all silver medallists will take place until the quota is filled.
- d. If there are insufficient silver medallists to fill a quota, all gold and silver medallists advance and then random selection from all bronze medallists will take place until the quota is filled. This process will continue down through place winners until the quota is complete.

Athletes advance in their singles event in badminton, bocce, bowling and table tennis. Where offered at 2023 SOWSG, doubles and teams will be formed from the selected athletes in that sport. For relay teams in swimming and athletics, these teams are also formed following selections. The Head Coach will form these teams based on the individual's ability to be part of a doubles, a team or relay event and meet the technical requirements of the sport.

14.6 Team Advancement Process - Football, Floorball and Basketball

- a. Composite teams will be formed after regional advancement events for participation in the Special Olympics Ireland Games and after Ireland Games for participation in the Special Olympics World Games. Composite teams is where a team is formed with athletes of similar abilities; athletes may be from different clubs or regions.

2022 Advancement Competitions will be the first and only level prior to selections for 2023 SOWSG.

- b. Athletes are graded using set criteria to determine their ability level. Prior to Ireland Games athletes will be graded on 3 occasions – 1st by club coaches, 2nd at regional grading day and finally at the regional advancement event. Athletes will also be graded at the Ireland Games.

To advance to the 2023 SOWSG, composite teams will be formed following the 2022 Advancement Competitions. In this cycle only two Grading of players will be conducted. The first grading will be submitted and signed off by clubs for their athletes in preparation for 2022 Advancement Competitions. A second external grading of players will be undertaken at either a Regional Grading

Day or at the Advancement Competition. The updated grade from these two sessions will be used as the grade for selection for each eligible athlete and signed off by the Head Coach of the team.

- c. A sign off process will exist between RDOs and club coaches after regional events and between Special Olympics Ireland and regional Head Coaches through the regions after Special Olympics Ireland Games in relation to grades and positions assigned to players.
- d. If the grade of competition/team is not determined by the Event/Games Organising Committee (See 14.7 Combining grades for Team Advancement), a random selection will be made to determine the grade.
- e. Athletes at Grade 4 will not be eligible for selection to European or World Games as this is deemed a development level in team sports.
- f. See 14.8 Team sports positions for composite teams.

14.7 Combining grades for team advancement

Where insufficient numbers in a particular grade exist, grades may be combined and offered by the Event/Games organisers. When combining grades, only grades adjacent to one another can be combined e.g. in football grade 1 cannot be combined with grade 3 or grade 4, similarly in basketball grade 3 cannot be combined with grade 1.

14.8 Team sports positions for composite teams

The list below details the numbers of each position to be selected for composite teams:

- a. Basketball: Grade 1: 2 Point Guards, 4 Guards and 4 Forwards.
- b. Basketball Grades 2 & 3: 6 Guards, and 4 Forwards.
- c. 7-a-side Football: 2 Goalkeepers, 4 Defensive players, 3 Midfield Players and 2 Forwards
- d. Floorball: 2 Goalkeepers and 6 Outfield players

How Team Sports are selected

The first selection will draw the grade of the team. As per normal selection criteria, gold medals will be randomly selected first per position. Regional rotation is not used in team sports due to the use of grades and positions for selections.

1. If the number of eligible athletes per position and grade is the same as the quota, then all gold-medal winners progress.
2. If the number of gold-medal winners per position and grade exceeds the quota offered, then random selection of all gold-medal winners, per position and grade, will take place.
3. If there are not sufficient gold-medallists per position and grade to fill the quota, all gold-medallists advance, and the remaining quota is filled by random selection of all eligible silver medallists per position and grade until the quota is filled.