



2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games [2023 SOWSG]

Selection Notification and FAQ

ISSUED: [26th October 2021]

TO: Athletes, Coaches, Clubs, Interested Parties and all Support Staff (together).

OVERVIEW

As a result of COVID 19, the advancement cycle for the 2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games has been severely disrupted.

The Games will take place in Berlin, Germany from June 17th to June 24th 2023.

The purpose of this notification is to communicate how athlete selections will be made for the 2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games¹.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

1. When will selection for 2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games be made?

It is planned that the selections for 2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games will be held in the November / December 2022 timeframe.

2. What impact has COVID-19 had on selection events?

The Covid-19 Pandemic and related health advice has resulted in the cancellation of sport and competitions in the summer cycle since March 2020. Safety and wellbeing will always be the main priority of Special Olympics Ireland. In order to allow athletes the opportunity to prepare for advancement competitions, the first competition will not take place before 31 January 2022. The following are the competitions that have been impacted:

- (i) The 2022 Special Olympics Ireland Summer Games that were due to be held in June 2022 were cancelled.

¹ This Notification was adopted by the Board on [16 October 2021] in accordance with the Special Olympics Ireland Constitution. It shall come into force on [16 October 2021] and will apply until [24 June 2023].



- (ii) All planned competitions across all sports were suspended on March 13th 2020 and have not been rescheduled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

3. How will athletes advance to the 2023 WSG?

- (i) Advancement Competitions will take place during 2022 (see section 6 below for more information on Advancement Competitions). As the competition programme has not operated during Covid-19 restrictions, and regular training has been impacted for over a year, these competitions will be the only level of competition towards advancement to the 2023 World Summer Games. See Appendix 1 below for details on the Selection Process to 2023 SOWSG.
- (ii) Advancement competitions will be held on a regional basis with the exception of a few sports that will include athletes from different regions.
- (iii) An overview for all Advancement Competitions will be issued to clubs in the last quarter of 2021.
- (iv) As per World Games criteria, athletes must be 15 years of age on or before June 17th 2023 in order to take part in World Games, with the exception of gymnastics which is set at 12 years of age on or before June 17th 2023.
- (v) Only athletes that meet the age requirements are eligible to enter the 2022 Advancement Events.

Only athletes who can adhere to the criteria in the [Regulations Governing Special Olympics Ireland Sport 2021 – 2025](#): reference “Suitability of an athlete to participate in the next level of competition”, page 19, section 13.

4. What Summer Sports are Special Olympics Ireland participating in the 2023 SOWSG?

Athletics, Basketball (Female Team), Bocce, Bowling, Equestrian, Football (Male Team), Golf, Gymnastics (Artistic & Rhythmic), Kayaking, Swimming (including Open Water Swimming), Table Tennis, Ten Pin Bowling.

5. Has the selection process changed from usual?

Normally selection is made based on the results of Special Olympics Ireland Summer Games, which is the highest qualifying competition. The Special Olympics Ireland Summer Games were cancelled due to COVID-19. Therefore, selection will be based on the next highest level of competition that was, or can be held in line with COVID-19 restrictions and health advice. In this case, the level of competition from which selections will be made will be the 2022 Advancement Competitions.

6. 2022 Advancement Competitions

(i) When will competitions take place?

It is planned that the competitions will take place no earlier than the end of January 2022 and will be completed by the end of November 2022. An overview for all Advancement Competitions will be issued to clubs by the end of 2021.



(ii) What events will be offered?

Events offered at the Advancement Competitions will be only those events for which Special Olympics Ireland has been allocated a quota for the 2023 SOWSG. These are set out in Appendix 2 below, in addition to certain standards that must be met within these events. Special Olympics Ireland applied for a quota in all sports but ultimately has no say in the quota allocations or events within that sport granted. They are decided and governed exclusively by the Local Organising Committee of the World Summer Games in Berlin working in conjunction with Special Olympics International.

APPENDIX 1 (selection process)

APPENDIX 2 (quotas and standards)