



Categories in Swimming and Athletics for 2027 World Summer Games

In the quota received by Special Olympics Ireland, certain events and categories have been allocated and these cannot be changed.

Swimming	Athletics
Category 1 – 25m free, breast and back 50m free, breast, back and fly	Category 2 – 50m run and Mini Javelin
Category 2 – all four 100m strokes, 100m IM, 200m free and breast and 400m free	Category 3 – 100m, 200m, 400m
Category 3 – 800m and 1,500m free	Category 4 – 1,500m and 5,000m

Swimming Categories

In swimming the impact of this is as follows:

The categories implemented by the Games vary slightly from those we use in our programme, and some athletes will cross over two categories. Because of this an athlete will be selected on their event (those listed on the handout), and while their usual second event may not be in this category we will work with them, their club and new Head Coach to see what second event works best for them.

Selections will therefore be:

- **Category 1:** 1 male and 1 female who must participate in 25m Breaststroke, and 1 male and 1 female who must participate in 50m Backstroke. All category 1 events are eligible for selection, and all athletes will receive a second event in this category.
- **Category 2:** 1 male and 1 female who must participate in 100m Freestyle. All category 2 events are eligible for selection, and both athletes will receive a second event in this category.

Athletics Categories

In athletics where categories were not dictated, the quota received is a range of 14 events, and it was extremely difficult to see how best we could select our athletics team. For this reason, Special Olympics Ireland Sport together with our 10 Regional Development Officers from across the regions debated and discussed over the last 2 months over how to make selections meaningful and fair for all athletes, and categories were agreed in line with those already utilised in our sports programme.



Some athlete's events are across two categories, but depending on the event drawn their new second event may be unfamiliar to the athlete and will require development over the coming months. Athletes in athletics will be drawn in the following way:

Category 2

- If an athlete is drawn in the 50m their second event can only be the mini javelin.
- If an athlete is drawn in the mini javelin their second event can only be the 50m

Category 3

- If a male athlete is drawn in the 100m their second event can only be a 200m.
- If a male athlete is drawn in the 200m their second event can only be a 100m.
- If a female athlete is drawn in the 100m their second event will be a 200m
- If a female athlete is drawn in the 200m and the 100m and 400m are still available we will look at that athlete's second event in Ireland Games to decide.

Category 4

- If an athlete is drawn in the 1,500m their second event can only be a 5,000m.
- If an athlete is drawn in the 5,000m their second event can only be a 1,500m.

Selections will therefore be:

Category 2: 1 male and 2 female – combination of a 50m and a mini javelin for all 3 athletes

Category 3: 1 male and 2 female – combinations are 100m & 200m for male and female and a 200m & 400m for female.

Category 4: 1 male – combination will be 1,500m & 5,000m.