

Selecting athletes for World Games

- a) As per the Guidelines of Article 1, Special Olympics Official General Rules, the process of selecting athletes for advancement from Ireland to World Games is through random selection from all eligible athletes. In this instance eligible athletes are those who competed in Ireland Games 2026 or the Hockey ID event held in September 2026 and whose sport or event is offered at the 2027 Special Olympics World Summer Games.
- b) Athletes aged 15 and over are eligible to compete at World Games. (Age is dictated by the opening date of the World Games.)
- c) Selections for Individual & Team sports differ slightly and this is outlined below.
- d) To be eligible to advance for team sports, all athletes must have had game time in both divisioning and final rounds of competition at Ireland Games 2026.
- e) To ensure that all regions are represented on Team Ireland the following will apply:
 - If a quota of 5 places is available and all regions have eligible athletes, each region will receive an allocation of 1 place each.
 - If the quota is a multiple of 5 and if all 5 regions remain 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 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), the 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 receive 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.
- The order of sports to be selected and the rotation of regions will be drawn prior to the selections to allow time for preparation of the entire process.

Individual Sports Advancement Process

- 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 all place winners until the quota is complete.

Team Advancement Process – Basketball, Football, and Hockey ID

- a) Following Ireland Games and in preparation for participation in the Special Olympics World Games, composite teams of similar abilities will be selected.
- b) All athletes will have had their grades re-assessed at Ireland Games and it is these grades that will be applied for the selection process.
- c) A sign off process between Ireland Games Head Coaches and the competition grading team was agreed in relation to grades and positions assigned to players.
- d) If the team grade is not determined by the Local Organising Committee (2027 Santiago), a random selection will first be made to determine the grade to be selected.

- e) Grade 4 athletes will not be eligible for selection to World Games as this is deemed a development level in team sports.

Combining grades for team advancement

Where insufficient numbers in a particular grade exist, grades may be combined to create a team. When combining grades, only grades adjacent to one another can be combined e.g. grade 1 players cannot be combined with grade 3.

Team sports positions for composite teams

Basketball Grade 1: 2 Point Guards, 4 Guards, 4 Forwards.

Basketball Grade 2 & 3: 6 Guards, 4 Forwards.

7-a-side Football: 2 Goalkeepers, 3 Defensive players, 4 Midfield Players and 2 Forwards

Hockey ID: 1 Goalkeepers, 9 Outfield players.