

Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Advancement to Sectionals and State Games

Local → Sectionals → State Games

An athlete must participate at local games in order to advance to all higher level competitions. Athletes will be selected based on place of finish in local games to compete in Sectional/State Games.

Allocations: the number of slots a local program is awarded to Sectional or State Games.

Qualifier: when participation is required at one level of competition to advance to another. SOPA has qualifiers for Advancement from Sectionals to State Games in the following sports: Basketball (3v3, 5v5), Bocce, Bowling, Golf, LDR/W, Powerlifting, Soccer (5v5, 7v7), Tennis and Volleyball.

Qualifier Allocations:

will be provided per section of the state (east, central, west) based on maximum number that can be accommodated at State Games and total athlete/team interest for advancement per section of the state in each sport.

Example – maximum number of teams that can be accommodated in X sport at X State Games is 15.

- *Interest for advancement to States from Sectional registration paperwork – East 18, Central 8, West 4 = 30*
- *Generate percentage:
East $18/30 = 60\%$; Central $8/30 = 27\%$; West $4/30 = 13\%$*
- *Calculate # of Advancing teams:
East $15 \times 60\% = 9$; Central $15 \times 27\% = 4$; West $15 \times 13\% = 2$*

Athlete Selection:

- Interest for advancement must be indicated on registration paperwork
- Athletes will be drawn as individuals for individual sports and as teams for team sports (including bocce/bowling doubles)
- Gold medal winners with interest in advancing will be randomly selected to fill the slots
- If there is an insufficient number of gold medal winners, we will move to silver and then bronze to fill all remaining slots.
- Alternates will also be selected in order and activated if a slot opens

Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Advancement to USA/World Games

Local → Sectionals → State Games → USA/World Games

Athletes must compete in State Games to be eligible for advancement to USA/World Games.

Allocations: the number of slots Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) is awarded from SONA – USA Games and SOI - World Games.

Qualifier: SOPA State Games are the qualifying events for USA/World Games. Qualifying events are typically 1-2 years in advance of the Games.

Example: USA Games 2022 – qualifying events will be Fall Fest 2020 and Indoor Winter Games/Summer Games 2021.

Athlete Interest:

- Athletes interested in advancing to USA/World Games must:
 - Meet the Athlete Nomination Criteria outlined by SONA/SOI
 - **NEW** complete the Athlete Interest Form verifying that the athletes meets the outlined criteria for the appropriate Games (this will be a survey link posted to SOPA’s website)
 - **AND** indicate interest on the State Games registration paperwork, submitted by program management team to SOPA Competition Director
 - Participate in a State Games qualifying event
 - For SOPA qualifier sports, explained in the Advancement to Sectionals and State Games document, this will mean competing in a Sectional to be eligible to advance to State Games

Athlete Selection:

- We will hold a live selection, either at an event or as a live event on one of our social media channels
- Athletes will be drawn as individuals for individual sports (alpine skiing, athletics, bowling, cross country skiing, equestrian, figure skating, golf, gymnastics, LDR/W, powerlifting, roller skating, speed skating, snowshoeing, swimming and tennis) and as teams for team sports (basketball, bocce, floor hockey, soccer, softball and volleyball)
- Gold medal winners with interest in advancing will be placed in a drawing and randomly selected to fill the slots
- If there is an insufficient number of gold medal winners, we will move to silver and then bronze to fill all remaining slots
- Alternates will also be selected in order and activated if a slot opens