



## Changes to Athlete Eligibility

February 14, 2018

TO: All Stakeholders  
FROM: Special Olympics Ontario

After an extensive policy review process and consultation with our stakeholders and volunteers Special Olympics Ontario is enacting a Two Year Eligibility Policy.

This policy will go into effect on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.

The introduction of the Two Year Eligibility Cycle means that athletes that would like to qualify to advance to the Provincial Games must have been **registered** and **competing** in their chosen sport for a minimum of **2 seasons** prior to the Provincial Games. Competition data must be submitted to Special Olympics Ontario for each of these 2 sport seasons.

As we are currently 2 years away from the next Special Olympics Ontario Spring Provincial Games the Two Year Eligibility Cycle will go into immediate effect for all Spring Sports.

What this means for Spring Sport Coaches and athletes:

- All athletes names must appear on the club's registration list in the SOO Database by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 (this deadline is being extended from our regular February 1<sup>st</sup> Spring Sport registration deadline **for this year only**)
- Competition data from a minimum of one competition from this season must be submitted to Special Olympics Ontario's Sport & Competition Developer
- Athletes that are registered and compete in Spring Sports this season will be eligible to compete in the Provincial Qualifiers during the 2019 Spring Sport Season

Policy 13.3.29- Two Year Eligibility Cycle has been included in this document for your reference.

If you have any questions or concerns with anything contained in this document please contact you District Developer.

Thank you

### **Special Olympics Ontario**

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### **13.3.29 TWO YEAR ELIGIBILITY CYCLE**

*Next Review Date: June, 2020*

*Effective Date: February 23, 2018*

#### **Individual Sports**

*Year One (the season before the Provincial Qualifiers)*

- Athletes must be registered to the sport by the season specific eligibility deadline (January 1st for winter sports, February 1st for spring sports and July 1st for summer sports)
- Athlete must attend at least one (1) invitational or district competition in Ontario during this sport season
- The athlete's results from any competitions they attend must be submitted to Special Olympics Ontario

*Year Two (the season of the Provincial Qualifier)*

- The athlete must attend their designated Provincial Qualifier
- The Provincial Qualifier results must be submitted to Special Olympics Ontario

#### **Team Sports**

*Year One (the season before the Provincial Qualifiers)*

- The team roster on the Database must include all eligible athletes by the season specific eligibility deadline (January 1st for winter sports, February 1st for Spring Sports and July 1st for summer sports) \*Please note that the minimum and maximum roster sizes do not need to be followed at this stage
- The athletes that will be competing at the Provincial Qualifier on the team must attend a minimum of one (1) individual or district competition in Ontario together as a team during this season (the competitive roster)
- The competitive roster of the team and the results from all competitions the team attends must be submitted to Special Olympics Ontario using IM Leagues

*Year Two (the season of the Provincial Qualifier)*

- The Head Coach must declare the competitive roster for the Provincial Qualifiers from the list of eligible athletes in Year one. The competitive roster must be declared by the sport specific eligibility deadline (January 1st for winter sports, February 1st for Spring Sports and July 1st for summer sports).
- Teams can utilize the two (2) player pick up policy to the maximum roster size for the



sport

- Teams must attend their designated Provincial Qualifier
- The competitive team roster and the results from the Provincial Qualifier must be submitted to Special Olympics Ontario using IM Leagues

### *Provincial Games Year*

- The competitive roster for the team is the same as the roster from year 2
- Teams must attend a minimum of 1 invitational or district competition in Ontario
- The team roster and the competition results from the competition must be submitted to Special Olympics Ontario using IM Leagues
- Teams that are selected to attend the Provincial Games will be able to utilize the two (2) player pick up policy if required
- Results from the previous two years along with any competitive results from this year will be used to assist with divisioning at the Provincial Games