



Dear Special Olympics Team,

In 2017, the Special Olympics Global Leadership Team requested and approved a concept proposal to conduct pre-divisioned direct finals at the 2019 World Games in Abu Dhabi. Subsequently, members of the Sports and Games department developed a concept based on field tests done in 2015 and 2017 and sought input from Regional Sport Directors, Technical Delegates, and the Sports Rules Advisory Committee.

Prior World Games divisioned athletes based on times or scores acquired during on-site preliminary/divisioning competitions at the Games and the direct finals where entry times or scores were submitted by coaches before the Games. At the Los Angeles 2015 World Games, a pilot program for direct finals of the 100m butterfly and 400m freestyle was conducted with success. The submitted qualifying times were used to division the athletes for their finals in those events, and coaches were given the opportunity to update those times at the Games if needed. For this pilot program, only 2 swimmers were disqualified during the 100m butterfly for Maximum Effort violations. For the 100m butterfly, 11 swimmers achieved a personal best during the event, and 8 swimmers achieved a personal best for the 400m freestyle.

For the Abu Dhabi 2019 World Games, Special Olympics will conduct pre-divisioned direct finals for the following events:

- **Athletics** - 100m run, 200m run, 400m run, 800m run, 1500m run, 400m walk, 800m walk, 3,000m run, 5,000m run, 10,000m run, half marathon, 4x100m relay, 4x400m relay
- **Roller skating** - 100m race, 300m race, 500m race, 1000m race
- **Swimming** - 100m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 100m butterfly, 100m breaststroke, 100m individual medley, 200m individual medley, 200m breaststroke, 200m freestyle, 200 backstroke, 400m freestyle, 800m freestyle, 1500m freestyle
- **Open Water Swimming** - 1500m open water swimming, 1500m unified open water swimming
- **Triathlon** - 750m swim, 20K bike, 5K run

Athletes competing in these events will be placed in final divisions four weeks prior to the World Games, using the most updated entry time submitted by the coach on or before 11 February 2019.

It is expected that all athletes be well trained in order to achieve consistent results between their entry scores and final competition. Insufficient training or preparation will not be considered an acceptable excuse for variations in performance. The integrity of the divisioning process can be adversely affected by both poor athlete training and lack of maximum effort, and Special Olympics depends on the expertise of our coaches to uphold the integrity of the divisioning process by providing accurate entry times. Athletes strive to do their best in competition at all levels of the organization. By implementing pre-divisioned direct finals, we are supporting the efforts of our coaches to ensure all athletes are properly trained while providing an enjoyable World Games sport experience.

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