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SOAP GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING ATHLETES FOR SPECIAL OLYMPIC WORLD SUMMER GAMES

RULE #1: You must NOT choose the best athletes in each sport

Rule #2: You must NOT choose the athletes who are rich and can afford to pay you to go to the World Games

Rule #3: You must NOT choose all males or all females for your team – your team must be a representative group of the athletes in your programme

Rule #4: You must NOT choose athletes who have not been in regular training and did NOT attend your National Games [unless there are special reasons]

Rule #5: Here are the proper Rules for selecting your athletes for World Games ...

1. All athletes who were placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in one of their events at the National Summer Games are eligible to be nominated for the World Games.
2. If the number of eligible athletes or teams exceeds the quota, athletes or teams that advance shall be selected as follows:
 - a. Priority is given to the gold medal winners from all divisions of the sport/event.
 - b. If there are not enough gold medal winners to fill the quota, then the remaining places may be filled by silver medal winners; and if there are not enough silver medal winners to fill the quota, then

- the remaining places may be filled by bronze medal winners.
- c. Where there are more medallists eligible than places available in the quota, the athletes will be chosen by a random draw.
3. HOWEVER - accredited programmes may request authorisation to add additional criteria for advancement for selection based on: behaviour, medical or judicial considerations, and/or deviate from these advancement procedures based on the size or particular circumstances in their programme.
 4. Team composition should reflect:
 - a. different regions of the country
 - b. all three ability levels
 - c. ratio of male: female athletes in the team which reflects male: female ratio in sport/programme
 - d. ethnic groups in your programme
 - e. age groups in your programme – if appropriate
 5. Other considerations:
 - a. length of time away from home environment
 - b. effect of travel
 - c. independence of athletes for eating, dressing, sleeping and socialising
 - d. dependence on medication
 - e. ability to be team athletes
 - f. their reaction to stress, noise and excitement of international competition
 - g. positive influence the experience will have on their lives

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