

SOB/Circ./2026-V/states

10/07/2026

ADDENDUM - CIRCULAR

To,
All Affiliated State Associations / Units

SUBJECT: Athlete & Coaches shortlisting, selection and Progression Pathway for preparation towards the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2029

In addendum to the Selection Guidelines for Special Olympics Bharat Revision – January 2018, Special Olympics Bharat (SOB) has drawn the Athlete Shortlisting, Selection Criteria and Progression Pathway for preparation specifically towards participation in the **Special Olympics World Winter Games 2029**.

All clauses and points mentioned in Selection Guidelines for Special Olympics Bharat Revision – January 2018 remain true and applicable. The current addendum has been drawn for greater transparency and information of all state chapters.

The shortlisting & selection process will be applicable for the following winter sports:

- Figure Skating
- Speed Skating
- Snowshoeing
- Cross Country Skiing
- Alpine Skiing
- Snowboarding
- Floorball

The detailed **Athlete Selection Criteria, Coach Selection Process, Assessment Parameters, and Progression Pathway** are enclosed with this circular for reference and implementation.



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Special Olympics, Inc. for the benefit of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities
Recognized as a National Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual
Disabilities by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India*

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BHARAT

WINTER GAMES 2029

Athlete Shortlisting, Selection Criteria & Progression Pathway

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1. Introduction

Special Olympics Bharat (SOB) has established a structured Athlete Shortlisting & Selection and Progression Pathway for preparation towards the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2029. The pathway identifies, assesses, develops and finalizes athletes and coaches through Winter National Championships and National Coaching Camps.

2. Sports Covered

Category	Sports
Individual Sports	Figure Skating, Speed Skating, Snowshoeing, Cross Country Skiing, Alpine Skiing, Snowboarding
Team Sport	Floorball

3. Athlete Progression Pathway Overview

Stage	Purpose
Winter National Championships (NC)	First shortlisting event
NCC Prep-1	Initial assessment and shortlisting
NCC Prep-2	Further performance evaluation and filtering
NCC Prep-3	Final List
World Winter Games 2029	Final India Team Representation (subject to approval of the Competent Authority.)

4. Individual Sports Athlete Selection Pathway

Applicable for Figure Skating, Speed Skating, Snowshoeing, Cross Country Skiing, Alpine Skiing and Snowboarding.

4.1: Winter National Championships (NC)

Athlete shortlisting for National Coaching Camp (NCC) Prep-1 will be based on cumulative medal score achieved at the Winter National Championships. The final score will be a combination of all medal scores in all events participated by an athlete in a particular sport.

Medal	Points
Gold	7
Silver	3
Bronze	1

Total number of athletes invited to NCC 1 will be limited as per the quota allotted for that particular sport, or at the discretion of National Office based on the approved budget and camper numbers as per SAI sanction.

Athlete attendance, discipline, and commitment during NCCs may be considered during shortlisting process.

It will be mandatory to attend all NCCs unless Selection Committee has given relaxation due to specific reasons informed well within time.

4.2: NCC Prep-1

Initial assessment and identification of athletes suitable for further progression.

Assessment Criteria (As per sport-specific applicability)
Time
Score
Distance
Sport-specific performance
Sport-wise athlete quota

4.3: NCC Prep-2

Assessment Criteria (As per sport-specific applicability)
Time
Score
Distance
Sport-specific performance

Availability of passports
Sport-wise athlete quota

Alternates may be identified based on the quota received.

4.4: NCC Prep-3

Final list of shortlisted athletes will be prepared based on sport-wise quota and recommendations of the Selection Committee. Alternates may be identified based on the quota received.

5. Team Sport Athlete Selection Pathway

Applicable for Floorball.

Team balance and sport-specific positional requirements may also be considered during final shortlisting.

Stage	Criteria
NC	Match performance i. Individual Skill Assessment Test ii. Team results iii. Goals/points scored iv. Individual performance during games
NCC Prep-1	Match performance and sport-specific requirements
NCC Prep-2	Performance, availability of passport and athlete quota
NCC Prep-3	Final Shortlist

6. Coach Selection & Progression Pathway

The coach shortlisting pathway is common for individual and team sports.

Stage	Process
NC	Interview by Selection Committee
NCC Prep-1	Observation by National Office Representative AND/OR Sport Expert
NCC Prep-2	Availability of passport, Observation by National Office Representative AND/OR Sport Expert and coach quota
Conclusion of NCC Prep-2	Final interview by Committee
NCC Prep-3	Final Shortlist

World Winter Games 2029	Final India Team Representation (subject to approval of the Competent Authority.)
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6.1: Winter National Championships (NC)

All coaches will be evaluated based on the interviews conducted by the Selection Committee. The matrix of scoring is placed at Annexure I.

6.2: NCC Prep-1 Coach Observation Criteria

All Coaches in NCC 1 will be observed and assessed by a National Office Representative AND/OR Sport Expert based on the defined coach observation criteria placed below and at Annexure III.

Criteria
Technical knowledge of the sport
Tactical knowledge of the sport
Behaviour with athletes
Communication skills
Ability to structure a good training session

6.3: NCC Prep-2

All Coaches in NCC 2 will be observed and assessed by a National Office Representative AND/OR Sport Expert based on the defined coach observation criteria placed below and at Annexure III.

Criteria
Technical knowledge of the sport
Tactical knowledge of the sport
Behaviour with athletes
Communication skills
Ability to structure a good training session
Availability of valid passport

After the conclusion of the NCC Prep 2, final interview will be conducted by the Committee.

Alternates may be decided based on the quota received.

6.4: NCC Prep-3

Final shortlist of selected coaches. Alternates may be decided based on the quota received.

7. FINAL AUTHORITY & GENERAL PROVISIONS

7.1 Final Authority

The final authority for any decisions, interpretations, modifications, or changes related to this document shall rest with the approval and authority of the Competent Authority.

In the event of any dispute, clarification, or difference of interpretation arising from the implementation of this document, the decision of the Competent Authority shall be considered final and binding.

7.2 Selection Committee Authority

The Selection Committee shall have the authority to evaluate, recommend, and finalize athlete and coach selections based on the defined selection criteria, assessment outcomes, sport-specific requirements, and available quotas.

The Selection Committee may consider all relevant factors necessary to ensure the best possible representation of India at the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2029.

7.3 Changes in Selection Criteria

Special Olympics Bharat reserves the right to modify, update, or revise the selection criteria and progression pathway based on:

- Changes in international competition requirements
- Changes in athlete participation numbers
- Sport-specific requirements
- Operational requirements

Any such changes shall be approved by the Competent Authority.

7.4 Quota and Team Composition

Final selection of athletes and coaches will be subject to:

- Availability of sport-wise quotas
- World Games participation requirements
- Delegation size limitations
- Athlete and coach suitability for international competition
- Availability of valid passport

Participation in the selection pathway does not guarantee final selection.

In the event of no quota being allotted to SOB by SOI/SOAP, the sport/event altogether may be cancelled from further consideration.

7.5 Athlete Replacement / Withdrawal

In case of:

- Injury
- Medical reasons
- Non-availability
- Failure to meet participation requirements
- Disciplinary or behavioural concerns

SOB reserves the right to review and replace athletes/coaches at any stage of the pathway, based on the recommendation of the Selection Committee and approval of the Competent Authority.

Non-participation in any scheduled NCC without valid reason may affect continuation in the selection pathway.

7.6 Performance and Progression

Progression from one stage of the pathway to the next shall not be considered automatic.

Athletes and coaches must continue to demonstrate:

- Required performance standards
- Commitment and participation
- Appropriate conduct
- Ability to meet the requirements of the next stage

7.7 Exceptional Circumstances

In exceptional circumstances where an athlete or coach cannot be assessed through the defined process due to unavoidable reasons, the Selection Committee may review the case and provide recommendations to the Competent Authority for final approval.

7.8 Document Interpretation

Where any ambiguity exists in the interpretation or implementation of this document, clarification issued by SOB and approved by the Competent Authority shall prevail.

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Coach Evaluation Form – Winter National Championships

Same evaluation form will be used for all Winter National Championships.

S.No	Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Points
1	Behaviour with Athlete	4
2	Knowledge of the Game	3
3	Attitude	5
4	Team Work	2
5	Years of Experience	2
6	Knowledge of First Aid	2
7	Coaching Level	2
	Total Score	20

S.No.	Core Evaluation Criteria	Max Pts	Technical Sub-Criteria / Breakdown	Pts
1	Behaviour with the Athlete	4	Care Taking on ground (Practice sessions – Physical & Psychological performance)	2
			Care Taking in room (Monitoring Personal Hygiene and Behaviour of athlete)	2
2	Knowledge of the Game	3	Special Olympics Sports Specific Rules and Divisioning	1
			Sports Specific Rules – 0.5 And Special Olympics L-1, L-2 and L-3 Certification L1=0, L2,L3=0.5	1
			Session Planning & Delivery – 0.5	1

			NIS Diploma in Specific Sport – 0.5	
3	Attitude	5	Respect for Others	1
			Positive attitude – 0.5	1
			Clear Communication – 0.5	
			Professional and Responsible	1
			Physical fitness and ability to demonstrate skills	1
			Health and Safety of the Self & athletes – 0.5 Active participation in sessions – 0.5	1
4	Team Work	2	Coordination amongst team	1
			Social & Emotional behaviour	1
5	Years of Experience in Special Olympics	2	Below 5 years	0.5
			5 to 10 years	1
			10 to 15 years	1.5
			20 Above years	2
6	Knowledge of First Aid	2	Demonstrated proficiency / compliance in First Aid	1
			Certification in First Aid	1
7	Coaching Level	2	National Coach	0.5
			Regional Trainer and SAI/ Federation	0.5

			Sport Specific experience 0-5 years - 0.5 5 years + - 0.5	
GRAND TOTAL SCORE		20	Maximum Permissible Score	20

Detailed Assessment Areas

Criteria	Assessment Areas
Behaviour with Athlete	Care taking during practice sessions; care taking during competition; hygiene and athlete behaviour
Knowledge of Game	Special Olympics rules; sport-specific Level 1 certification; Special Olympics Level 1, 2 and 3 certifications
Attitude	Passion, professionalism, discipline, respect, communication, accountability, athlete service, health and safety
Team Work	Coordination amongst team; social and emotional behaviour
Years of Experience	Below 5 years; 5–10 years; 10–15 years; 20+ years
Knowledge of First Aid	First Aid proficiency and certification
Coaching Level	National Coach; Regional Trainer / SAI NIS/ Federation Certification

Selection Committee Remarks:

Final Score: ____ / 20

Selection Committee Signatures:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Additional Selection Framework Provisions

Selection Framework

Selection of athletes and coaches will be based on performance, assessment outcomes, sport-wise requirements, budget and camper approval from SAI and available quotas. Selection decisions will be taken by the Selection Committee based on the defined evaluation process.

Selection Committee Role

- Selection of athletes during National Championships.
- Conduct coach interviews during National Championships.
- Review assessment outcomes during the selection pathway.
- Conduct final coach interviews after NCC Prep-2.
- Approve final athlete and coach selections.

Athlete Commitment Consideration

Athlete attendance, discipline, and commitment during National Coaching Camps may be considered during the final selection process.

Coach Commitment Consideration

Coach attendance, discipline, and commitment during National Coaching Camps may be considered during the final selection process.

NCC Prep-1 Coach Observation Sheet

To be completed by the National Office Representative AND/OR Sport Expert during coach observation.

Parameter	Rating	Remarks
Technical knowledge of the sport		
Tactical knowledge of the sport		
Behaviour with athletes		
Communication skills		
Ability to structure a good training session		

Ratings to be marked out 10 maximum marks for each paramter.