



## Special Olympics WA 2023 Competition Pathway Information Sheet

### Special Olympics Australia Competition Pathway Overview

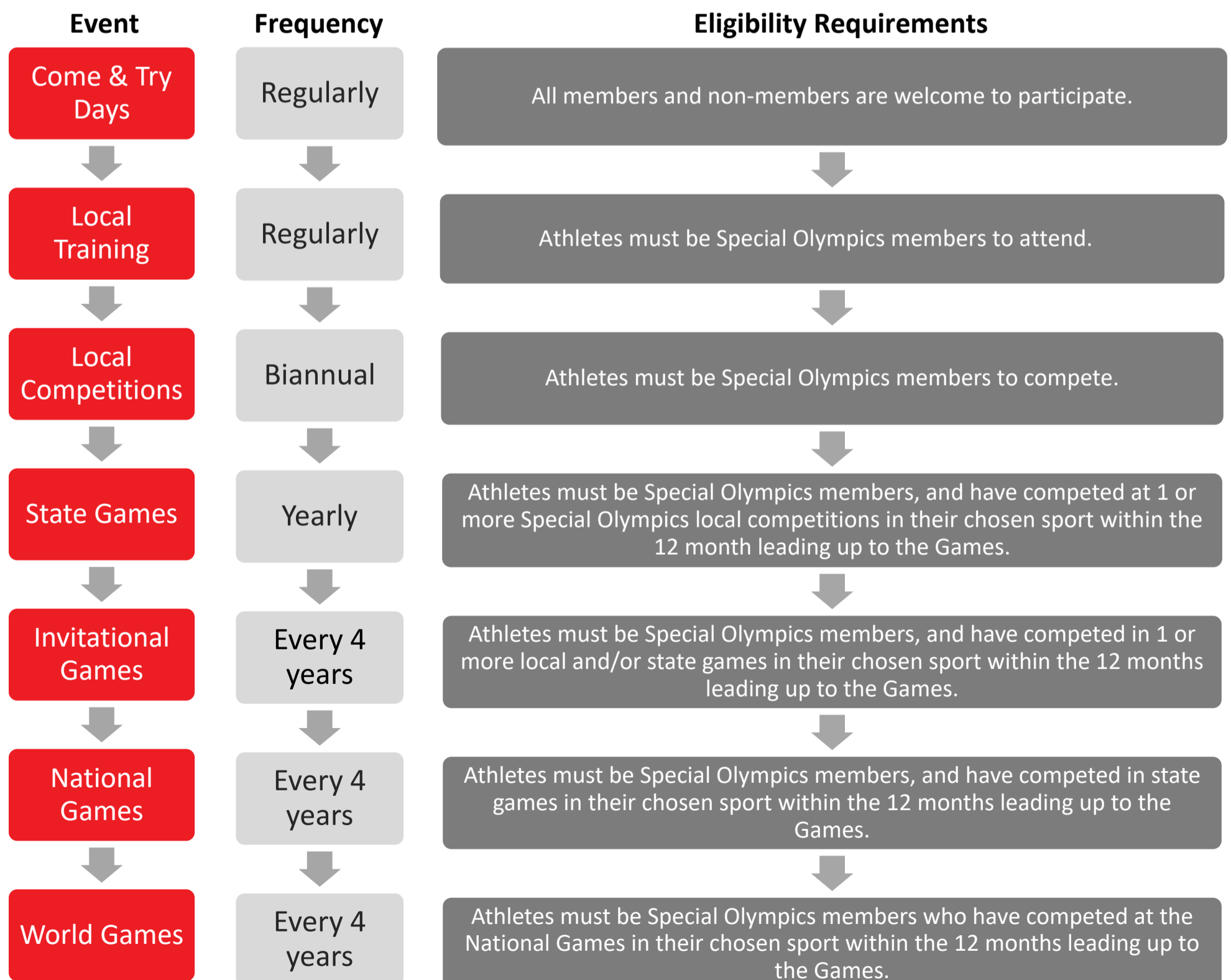
Special Olympics Australia offers the highest quality sports training and competition opportunities for people with an intellectual disability in Australia, including local sport training programs, to regional, state, and national games, culminating in the international Special Olympics World Games.

The Special Olympics competition pathway is unique to other sporting pathways, as athletes of all ability levels are encouraged to participate, and every athlete is recognised for their performance.

Special Olympics competitions are structured on a concept known as Divisioning, where athletes compete against other athletes of similar ability in equitable groupings. To learn more about divisioning, visit: [specialolympics.org/sports-essentials/divisioning](https://specialolympics.org/sports-essentials/divisioning)

Special Olympics Australia offers athletes a pathway across 20 sports, including Athletics, Basketball, Bocce, Bowling (Tenpin), Cricket, Dance, Equestrian, Football (Soccer), Golf, Gymnastics (Artistic and Rhythmic), Netball, Power Lifting, Sailing, Softball, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, and Winter Sports (Alpine Skiing and Snow Board).

### Special Olympics WA 2023 Athlete Eligibility Requirements





## Selection Process

Athletes of all ability levels have an equal opportunity to advance to the next higher-level competition in the Special Olympics pathway, provided the sport and event are offered at the next higher level of competition.

An athlete is eligible to advance to the next competition once they have participated in the previous level of competition in the same sport (as per the above image).

Selection into national and international competitions, will be determined by the assigned number of athletes (“Quota”) for each State (i.e. Western Australia) or Country (i.e. Australia) for each sport competition. The quota and sport competitions are set by Special Olympics Australia and/or Special Olympics International for their respective events.

Below is an outline of the process of athlete selection for national and international events.

Individual Sports:	
<b>Step 1:</b>	All <b>first-place athletes</b> from all divisions of the sport and/or event will be considered for selection against the assigned number of athletes (“Quota”) for the sport competition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the number of first-place athletes does not exceed the quota, they will all be selected.</li> <li>• If the number of first-place athletes exceeds the quota, athletes will be selected by random draw.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 2:</b>	If the quota for the sport and event has not been filled in Step 1 (above), <b>second-place athletes</b> from all divisions of the sport and/or event will be considered for selection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the number of second-place athletes does not exceed the quota, they will all be selected.</li> <li>• If the number of second-place athletes exceeds the quota, athletes will be selected by random draw.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 3:</b>	If the quota for the sport and event has not been filled in Step 1 and 2 (above), <b>third-place athletes</b> from all divisions of the sport and/or event will be considered for selection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the number of third-place athletes does not exceed the quota, they will all be selected.</li> <li>• If the number of third-place athletes exceeds the quota, athletes will be selected by random draw.</li> </ul>

Team Sports:	
<b>Step 1:</b>	A team will be selected from each division for each sport and event that is included in the assigned number of athletes (“Quota”) for the next level sport competition.  All athletes from all teams in a division of a competition will be eligible for selection irrespective of the team’s placing. A random draw will be conducted to select athletes from across all teams.  If nominated divisions are offered at the next level of competition, a team or teams from a division can be selected.

Once the above steps have been completed, an endorsement process is carried out as the final step for selection of an athlete. This process is based on an athletes medical and behavioural needs, ensuring they can travel and compete in a new environment, with the support provided by Special Olympics. Both athletes and coaches are subject to this process.