

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONTARIO
7000-212 Two Year Eligibility Cycle

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 2026

REVIEW DATE: September 2026

Individual Sports

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

- Athletes must be registered to their respective sport club within the Membership Portal and actively participating with the program this season. **Attendance records may be requested.**
- Athlete must attend at least one (1) invitational or district competition in Ontario during this sport season.
 - Clubs wishing to use a non-SOO sanctioned event, may request an alternative competition exemption. Alternative competitions may include:
 - SONA Competitions
 - Special Olympics competitions hosted by other Provinces or States
 - Generic sport competition opportunities
- The athlete's results from any competitions they attend must be submitted to Special Olympics Ontario by their home community.

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 by the event hosts.

Exemption Process (Individual Sport)

Sport Clubs may submit a request for consideration for athlete exemptions to the Year One requirements based on extenuating circumstances. All requests for exemption must be submitted during Year One to be considered. Clubs may also present an exemption to request a Provincial Qualifier assignment change. Exemptions will be reviewed for the following, but not limited to:

- Medical Concerns
 - Documentation must accompany medical exemption requests
- Significant Life Events
 - If major family/work events impact the athlete's ability to attend any competition with their respective club.
 - Weddings, pre-booked and non-refundable family vacations, mandatory work training etc.
 - All submissions for a Significant Life Events exemption must be accompanied with documentation (invite, travel confirmation, letter from employer etc.) and submitted to SOO by the athlete's home community.

- Unavailability of Reasonable Competition
 - No competition opportunities within a reasonable travel distance
 - Conference competition notice received less than 4 weeks prior to competition date by conference members
 - Inclement weather impacting competition attendance

SOO will review all exemption request submissions and, if approved, make a determination of one of the following resolutions:

- Full exemption from Year One Requirements
- Partial exemption from Year One Requirements
 - Athletes may be requested to participate in a local time trial/alternative competition.

Team Sports

Year One (the season before the Provincial Qualifiers)

- All athletes reflected on the Year One roster must be registered with the respective sport club in the Membership Portal and be actively participating with the program this season.
Attendance records may be requested.
- The athletes that will be competing at the Provincial Qualifier on the team must attend a minimum of one (1) invitational or district competition in Ontario together, as a team, during this season (Competitive Roster). The roster submitted for a club's designated Year One competition will form the base roster for entry into Year Two Provincial Qualifiers. Mixing and matching of rosters from Year One competitions is not permitted outside of the designated pick-up allotments.
 - Note that clubs are able to attend multiple competitions in Year One. Only one competition roster must be designated as the Qualifying roster.
 - Minimum and maximum roster requirements do not need to be followed during Year One events.
 - Clubs wishing to use a non-SOO sanctioned event, may request an alternative competition exemption. Alternative competitions may include:
 - SONA Competitions
 - Special Olympics competitions hosted by other Provinces or States
 - Generic sport competition opportunities
- The competitive roster of the team and the results from all competitions the team attends must be submitted to Special Olympics Ontario by their home community.

Year Two (the season of the Provincial Qualifier)

- The Head Coach must declare the competitive roster for the Provincial Qualifiers using the designated Year One roster. 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).
- Curling teams can utilize the two (2) player pick up policy to the maximum roster size for the sport.
- All other team sports can utilize the three (3) player pick up policy to the maximum roster size for the sport.
 - Pick-up players must be registered with their respective sport club in the Membership Portal by the sport specific eligibility deadline of Year 2.
 - Pick-up players do not need to have attended a competition in Year One with their respective clubs.

- 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 by the event hosts.

Provincial Games Year

- The competitive roster for the team is the same as the roster from Year 2.
- The team roster and the competition results from any competitions attended this season must be submitted to Special Olympics Ontario by the host community.
- Teams that are selected to attend the Provincial Games will be able to utilize the pick up policy if required to supplement their Provincial Games roster.
- 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.

Exemption Process (Team Sport)

Sport Clubs may submit a request for consideration for athlete and team exemptions to the Year One requirements based on extenuating circumstances. All requests for exemption must be submitted during Year One to be considered. Exemptions will be reviewed for the following, but not limited to:

- Event Cancellation
 - In the event a competition is canceled due to unforeseen circumstances, and there are no other reasonable competition opportunities.
- Inclement Weather
 - If transportation to a competition is impacted by negative weather conditions.
- Medical Concerns (Individual Athletes)
 - Injured players, unable to participate in Year One competitions, must be included on Year One rosters. These athletes will count as part of the team's designated roster and will not count towards the team's pick-up player allocation
 - Injury waiver requests must be accompanied with documentation and approved by SOO. Exemption requests must be approved prior to the designated competition.

Note that individual athletes unable to participate as part of the Year One roster, outside of the Medical Concerns exemption above, are not eligible for exemption. Athletes can be added to the Year 2 roster utilizing the team's pick-up player allocation.

SOO will review all exemption request submissions and, if approved, make a determination of one of the following resolutions:

- Full exemption from Year One Requirements
- Partial exemption from Year One Requirements
 - Teams may be requested to participate in a local alternative competition structure

Definition: Competition

Year One competition is defined as any event featuring two or more Special Olympics Ontario communities. This can include, but is not limited to:

- Invitational Tournaments/Competitions
- Friendlies
- Home and Home Events
- Time Trials

Definition: Season

The competitive timelines for respective seasons are outlined in the chart below. Competition for the respective season must occur between the prescribed timelines to meet Year One requirements. All results, rosters and other required documentation, must be submitted prior to the season end date as indicated.

Season	Start Date	End Date
Spring	October 1 st	May 31 st
Summer	May 1 st	September 30 th
Winter	October 1 st	May 31 st