



World & USA Games Selection Requirements

Special Olympics World and USA Games are highly unique events that present stresses and challenges unlike any other Special Olympics local or state competition. It is imperative that athletes, partners, and coaches meet certain physical, mental, and emotional criteria to be considered to attend.

While it is an honor and a privilege to compete at World or USA Games, it is just as important that all participants have a safe and positive experience. The selection process is extremely important in ensuring a positive experience. In addition to applications, candidates can expect to participate in a heavy vetting process to include questionnaires, interviews, selection camps, reference checks with coaches, local program management, family members, etc.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLYING

Applicants must be able achieve the following:

- ☐ Must be age 16 or older a minimum of 9 months from the competition date
- ☐ Endure lengthy and uncomfortable travel conditions (15 hrs./day) plane, bus, boat, car, train etc.
- ☐ Safely handle strange surroundings and unfamiliar/foreign food
- ☐ Perform nearly all tasks independently with minimal coach supervision
- ☐ Share living space with other athletes, coaches, and/or Unified Partners
- ☐ Take instruction and direction from team coaches and SO USA management team
- ☐ Safely handle and patiently wait for excessively long periods of time
- ☐ Walking for extended periods of time over various distances daily
- ☐ Adapting to sudden schedule changes
- ☐ Safely and thoroughly handling all toileting/showering/bathing/hygiene needs independently
- ☐ The ability to administer prescription medications independently; all chronic conditions controlled
- ☐ Endure being away from home/family; 7-12 days (USA Games) 12-20 days (World Games)
- ☐ Handle a normal daily schedule of 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- ☐ The ability to interact with others in a positive and friendly manner
- ☐ Safely handle large crowds/loud noises/bright lights etc.
- ☐ Demonstrate good sportsmanship and the ability to function as a part of a team
- ☐ Commit to a minimum 6-month training period for selected sport
- ☐ Commit to attending selection camp and out-of-state competitions
- ☐ Commit to raising funds to support World or USA Games attendance; hosting or attending fundraisers, Penguin Plunge, donor/sponsor appearances, etc.
- ☐ Support and full buy-in from family/care provider and local coach to attend; providing transportation to events, coordinating practices, etc.