

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC POLICY MANUAL

Section: **SPORT**
Policy: **Adding / Deleting Sports**
Effective Date: April 2002
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A review of all summer sports will take place in the year of Special Olympics BC Summer Games/Championships, and a review of all winter sports will take place in the year of Special Olympics BC Winter Games/Championships. A committee established by the Leadership Council with input from the Special Olympics BC Vice President, Sport will conduct this review. This committee will report back to the Leadership Council at the fall meeting in that Games year with recommendations on which sports, if any, should be added or deleted from those approved for offering within Special Olympics BC. The Leadership Council will vote on recommendations made with the results forwarded to the Special Olympics BC Board of Directors for their consideration and final decision. Sports added would be offered at the start of the program year following the respective Special Olympics Canada Games. Sports to be deleted would wind up in the sport season of the Special Olympics World Games, and would not be offered in subsequent years.

The final decision to add or drop a sport will be made by the Special Olympics BC Board of Directors following input from the Leadership Council.

The committee charged with reviewing the status of existing sports and recommending the introduction of new sports must survey athletes and volunteers for their input. The committee must also survey Locals for their input on adding or deleting sports and the impact that this would have on their resources.

Every effort must be made by the Local to find an alternative program for athletes impacted by a sport being deleted.

If a sport is to be added or deleted, a plan must be developed and approved which lays out directions and time-lines for how this will be accomplished.

By allowing one year from the time the decision is made to add a program until that program will be offered, sufficient time should exist to develop and approve rules for that sport, to recruit coaches and officials, book facilities, and secure the necessary funding.

Locals will only offer sports that are on the approved list of sports to be offered within Special Olympics BC and the provincial body will only provide coach training and competitive opportunities for these same sports.