



World Games Santiago 2027

General

The Special Olympics World Games are the premier international sporting event for Special Olympics athletes, bringing together thousands of athletes from around the world to compete at the highest level of the movement. Held every four years, the World Games celebrate athletic achievement, inclusion, and the global spirit of Special Olympics while providing athletes the opportunity to represent their state, country, and community on the world stage. Participation in the World Games requires a significant commitment to training, preparation, and team responsibilities, and selected athletes are expected to serve as ambassadors for Special Olympics Indiana throughout the delegation process.

The 2027 Special Olympics World Games in Santiago, Chile will bring 6,000 athletes and Unified Partners to compete in a variety of sports from 170 countries on October 16 – 24, 2027. There will be 22 sports played and Indiana has received spots in 3 of those sports.

Indiana

Special Olympics Indiana (SOIN) has received the following athlete quota allocations for the 2027 World Games:

- 1 Female Cyclist
- 1 Male Cyclist
- 1 Female Track & Field Athlete, Category 2
- 1 Female Swimmer, Category 2

Because of the limited number of quota slots available, we are asking County Programs to submit nominations for athletes they believe are most qualified and prepared to represent Indiana at the World Games level.

Submissions do not guarantee selection. Final athlete selections will be made by Special Olympics Indiana based on quota requirements, athlete eligibility, performance standards, readiness, and delegation needs.

TRACK & FIELD – CATEGORY 2

Athletes nominated for the Track & Field Category 2 quota must be capable of competing in the following event group:

Running Events (Eligible):

- 400m Run
- 800m Run
- 1500m Run

Field Event Options (Eligible):

- Mini Javelin
- Shot Put
- Long Jump

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- Standing Long Jump

Additional Eligible Event:

- Relay Participation

SWIMMING – CATEGORY 2

Athletes nominated for the Swimming Category 2 quota must be capable of competing in the following event group:

100m Events (Eligible):

- 100m Freestyle
- 100m Backstroke
- 100m Butterfly
- 100m Breaststroke
- 100m Individual Medley

200m Events (Eligible):

- 200m Freestyle
- 200m Breaststroke

400m Event (Eligible):

- 400m Freestyle

Additional Eligible Event:

- Relay Participation

Team Member Requirements – for all athletes

- Must be involved in the SOIN program during the nomination year from August 2025 to June 2026
- Must be nominated by their County Coordinator.
- Must be in good standing with SOIN.
- Read, sign, and submit the Code of Conduct form.
- Complete, sign, and submit all required registration forms, medical forms, and other forms as needed.
- Must have the ability to function and be away from home for fourteen days or more.
- Must be at least 15 years of age at the time of the games
- Must possess the skills to be able to function as a part of the delegation (e.g. cooperation, sharing, group living, following directions, basic social skills, good behavior, etc.).
- Must be able to travel long distances and stand for long periods of time daily (excluding applicants in wheelchairs but still have the stamina for such activities).
- Must be able to lift 25 pounds.
- Must agree to refrain from the use of alcohol and tobacco products during training camps and World Games.
- Participate and attend all team trials.
- Must agree to the finance arrangement as outlined later.
- Participate in fitness training program as outlined by the national team.



Nomination Process

SOIN requires that all nominations for athletes are received prior to Summer Games. Nominations are due by May 25 by competing with the nomination form found below.

Nominations must be submitted by the County Coordinator.

During this nomination process, we are identifying athletes that Indiana would like to nominate to SO USA.

Nomination does not mean they have been selected to SO USA. Athletes must attend team trials on the dates listed below. Athletes will be officially selected after team trials and will then be named by the national team.

Selection Process

The selection process is outlined in SOI's *General Sports Rules* and will be followed by SOIN. Our quota is described earlier in this handbook.

- If the number of eligible (nominated) athletes or teams does not exceed the quota, all athletes and teams shall advance, provided the athletes and teams compete in the state championship for that sport and meet the team member requirements as listed above.
- If the number of eligible (nominated) athletes or teams exceeds the quota, athletes or teams that advance shall be selected as follows:
 - Priority is given to first-place finishers from all divisions of the sport/event in the state championship. If the number of first-place finishers exceeds the quota, select athletes or teams to advance by random draw.
 - If there are not enough first-place finishers to fill the quota, all first-place finishers shall advance. The remaining quota shall be filled by a random draw of second-place finishers from all divisions of the sport/event in the state championship.
 - If the quota is large enough for all second-place finishers to advance, the remaining quota shall be filled by a random draw of third-place finishers from all divisions of the sport/event in the state championship.
 - Repeat this process, adding each place of finish as necessary until the quota is filled.
- These procedures apply to both individual and team sports.
- Athletes will also be evaluated based on but not limited to:
 - Ability to compete successfully within quota category requirements
 - Coachability and sportsmanship
 - Behavioral and emotional readiness for international travel

Team Trials

Nominated athletes must be available to attend team trials.

Location: Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dates: September 17th – 20th, 2026



Finance Arrangement

Athletes selected for the national team are responsible for fundraising the full amount required to be on the team. The fundraising requirement is \$9,000. Team members will be expected to reach their fundraising goal by May 2027.

ACCOUNTING

- All contributions for World Games, whether raised online, corporate sponsorships, etc., will be deposited directly into the World Games account, utilizing the SOIN consolidated accounting system.
- World Games donations will NOT be deposited into the County Program's account.
- Online donations will be received using individual World Games pages, created by SOIN.
- Individual giving pages will be created and maintained by SOIN. No other online fundraising websites will be allowed.
- Any other financial arrangements must receive prior authorization from SOIN.



2027 Special Olympics World Games Santiago, Chile

ATHLETE APPLICATION

Track & Field Swimming Cycling

The County Coordinator, by completing this form on the athlete's behalf, will ensure the accuracy of all information and will communicate information to the athlete. All applications should be sent to Katie Hilt at khilt@soindiana.org.

APPLICANT INFORMATION *(Please Print Legibly)*

County Program: _____

ATHLETE First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Gender: o Male o Female Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone: (____) _____ Email Address: _____

ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA

To be eligible for selection, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must be involved in the SOIN program during the nomination year from August 2025 to June 2026
- Must be nominated by their County Coordinator.
- Must be in good standing with SOIN.
- Read, sign, and submit the Code of Conduct form.
- Complete, sign, and submit all required registration forms, medical forms, and other forms as needed.
- Must have the ability to function and be away from home for fourteen days or more.
- Must be at least 15 years of age at the time of the games
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By signing below, we acknowledge that:

Selection to the 2027 Special Olympics World Games is an honor and a privilege. With this privilege comes responsibility. We promise to meet all selection criteria, to complete all required forms and support the U.S. delegation as outlined in *this handbook*. If the athlete should prove unworthy of this honor due to not meeting the selection criteria, we understand that SOIN has the authority to release this athlete from the U.S. delegation.

Signature of County Coordinator

Date
