Purpose:

The eligibility of athletes is a carefully monitored process with established parameters as outlined in Policy 6000-1. The following outlines the additional criteria used for athletes to attend various levels of competition. As in other sport governing bodies, higher-level competition is meant for athletes who have, through their performances, proved themselves capable. In Special Olympics Manitoba, this includes all athletes, from all ability levels who have also proven themselves capable.

The criteria for athlete eligibility to attend **Regional events** are as follows:

- Eight (8) years of age as of the first day of competition;
- Registered with Special Olympics Manitoba and a member in good standing within the community;
- Member of a Special Olympics Manitoba club accredited in the Region; and
- Appropriate maturation.

The criteria for athlete eligibility to attend **Provincial events** are as follows:

- Ten (10) years of age as of the first day of the competition;
- Registered with Special Olympics Manitoba and a member in good standing within the community;
- Member of an accredited Special Olympics Manitoba club;
- Appropriate maturation based upon the following:
  - Ability to cope with pressures involved in traveling and competition;
  - Ability to cope with being out of usual environment, and
- Have competed in the identified *qualifying event preceding the Provincial Championships/Games in that particular sport; *
- Must have actively participated in a Special Olympics Manitoba program, in that sport, for one (1) full program year.

The criteria for athlete eligibility for **National competitions** are as follows:

- Thirteen (13) years of age as of the first day of the national competition;
- Registered with Special Olympics Manitoba and a member in good standing within the community;
- Member of an accredited Special Olympics Manitoba club;
- Displays appropriate maturation, without one-on-one support, based upon the following:
  - Ability to cope with pressures involved in competition
  - Ability to cope with the travel requirements
  - Ability to cope with being out of usual environment
  - Ability to work with individuals who are unfamiliar (new coaches, new athletes)
- Have competed in the Provincial qualifying Championships/Games in the year preceding the National Games in that particular sport;**

Athletes will be selected based on performance at the qualifying Championships/Games using the sport specific Athlete Selection Criteria (see policies 7000-13 – 7000-20). Final selection is the responsibility of the Sport Program Committee, the Vice-President – Sport & Programs, Chef de Mission and the Provincial Team Head Coach for the specific sport.

The criteria for athlete eligibility for **International competition** are as follows:

- Fourteen (14) years of age as of the first day of International competition;
- Registered with Special Olympics Manitoba and a member in good standing in the community;
- Member of an accredited Special Olympics Manitoba club;
- Have competed in the National Games immediately preceding the International Competition; and
- Special Olympics Canada selects the athletes based on performance at the National Games using the Special Olympics Canada sport specific Athlete Selection Criteria Process (see SOC policies 5000-25 through 5000-32);
- Special Olympics Manitoba is provided with the opportunity to endorse the athlete(s).