

## Team Sports Athlete Advancement Policy

- Teams must play a minimum of two (documented) games against other Special Olympics teams prior to registration for official competition (unified teams must play unified teams). Qualifying games must be played against other active Special Olympics teams. At least one game must be played against a team from another Local Program.
- The team roster must remain the same for the two qualifying games, district, sectional and state competition. Teams that modify their rosters will forfeit all games.
- All players present at a competition must be on the bench and listed on the scorecard. All players must have the opportunity to play in at least one game. If a player is unable to play due to injury, the coach must tell the scorekeeper to record on the scorecard.
- Absent Advancement Rule: Athletes that are absent from regional/district/sectional competitions are not eligible to compete at the next level of competition if their team advances, with the following exceptions:
  - An athlete has an illness that creates an unsafe situation for attendance.
  - An athlete is absent due to an unforeseen and unavoidable circumstance.
- Athletes who were absent from competition that wish to be considered for advancement must submit an Absent Advancement Request to the committee by 11:59pm on the Monday following the qualifying competition. The request form must be signed off on from the Local Program Manager. The committee will review the request and issue a decision within three business days after the request is received. The decision of the committee shall be final and binding.
- Violation of the absent advancement rule includes falsifying or misrepresenting the reason for absence. Violation of this rule is considered a breach of the Athlete Code of Conduct and discipline will be imposed accordingly.