

**Advancement Procedure for Individual Sports**  
*(Single-event sports)*

**Area Competition (State Qualifier)**

- If an athlete is put into a heat that is less than 3 people, they are able to compete at area but are unable to advance to state.
- In order to advance to state the athlete must compete in a heat that consists of at least 3 participants.
- To be eligible for advancement to state an athlete must compete at their area qualifier. If the athlete does not have an area qualifier, he or she must travel to the nearest qualifier to compete.
- **The only exception(s) to this requirement are as followed:**
  - If the games management team is unable to put 3 or more athletes into a heat due to “Special Olympics divisioning rules” or to an “insufficient number of athletes participating in a particular state eligible event”.
  - If a heat is divisioned with 3 athletes before the meet, but 1 or 2 athletes are scratches at the time of competition, this will not negatively affect the athlete that is left to compete by themselves in that heat. He/she will still be eligible for advancement.
  - These exceptions should only be used on very rare occasions.*

**State Competition**

- In order for an athlete to advance to state, an athlete must fall into the advancement tiers in the table below until the area’s quota is met.
- If multiple athletes have the same finishing results, then they will be subject to a random drawing until quota is filled.
- Alternates will be determined by continuing the tier process on a need to basis.

Tier	Criteria	State Advancement Status
1	Finish area qualifier while accumulating a 1 <sup>st</sup> place finish.	Until area quota is filled
2	Finish area qualifier while accumulating 2 <sup>nd</sup> place finish.	Until area quota is filled
3	Finish area qualifier while accumulating 3 <sup>rd</sup> place finish.	Until area quota is filled
4	Use process for remaining place finishes until quota is filled.	Until area quota is filled

## Advancement Procedure for Athletics and Swimming

(Multiple-event sports)

### Area Meet

(2-3 individual events and 1 relay)

-Area relay results will not count towards advancement

- If an athlete is put into a heat that is less than 3 people, they are able to compete at area but are unable to advance to state.
- In order to advance to state the athlete must compete in a heat that consists of at least 3 participants.
- To be eligible for advancement to state an athlete must compete at their area qualifier. If the athlete does not have an area qualifier, he or she must travel to the nearest qualifier to compete.
- **The only exception(s) to this requirement are as followed:**
  - If the games management team is unable to put 3 or more athletes into a heat due to “Special Olympics divisioning rules” or to an “insufficient number of athletes participating in a particular state eligible event”.
  - If a heat is divisioned with 3 athletes before the meet, but 1 or 2 of them are scratches at the time of competition, this will not negatively affect the athlete that competes in a heat by themselves due to a scratches within their heat. He/she will still be eligible for advancement.
- To be eligible for advancement to state an athlete must compete in a minimum of 2 events that fall under the same category. See coaches’ packet for events listed under each category. **ATHLETES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CROSS BETWEEN CATEGORIES.**

### State Meet

(2 individual events and 1 relay)

-Relay teams at state will be formed after the single event advancement procedure is complete.

- In order for an athlete to advance to state, an athlete must fall into the advancement tiers in the table below until the area’s quota is met.
- Alternates will be determined by continuing the tier process on a need to basis.
- Area Relay medals **will not** count towards the advancement tier criteria.

Tier	Criteria (Individual Events Only)	Status
1	Finish area qualifier while accumulating 3 first place finishes. (Must compete in 3 events to be Tier 1 eligible)	Until area quota is met
2	Finish area qualifier while accumulating 2 gold medals. (Must compete in at least 2 events to be Tier 2 eligible)	Until area quota is met
3	Finish area qualifier while accumulating 1 gold medal and medal in other events. Silver medals will take priority over bronze medals to fill remaining quota. (Must compete in 3 events to be Tier 3 eligible)	Until area quota is met
4	Finish area qualifier while accumulating 1 gold medal and 1 medal out of the 3 events the athlete competed in. Silver medals will take priority over bronze medals to fill remaining quota. (Must compete in 3 events to be Tier 4 eligible)	Until area quota is met
5	Highest remaining finishers will be eligible for advancement but subject to a random drawing. (Must compete in at least 2 events to be Tier 5 eligible)	Until area quota is met

