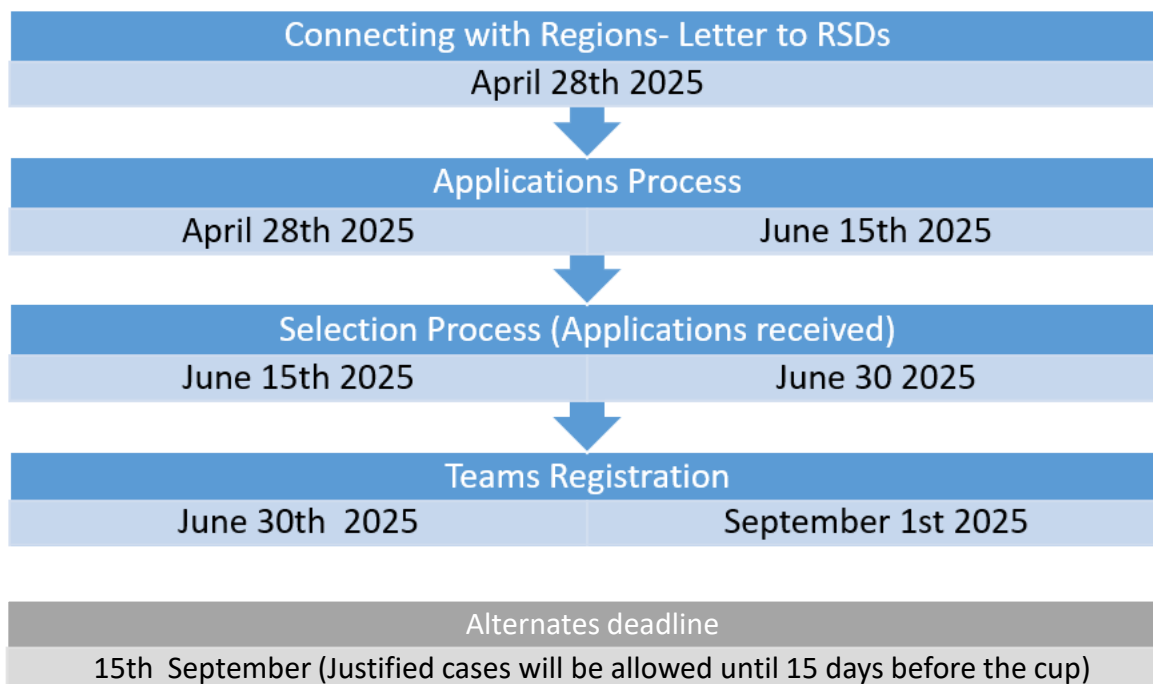


Special Olympics World Unified Volleyball Cup

4-9 October 2025, Katowice, Poland

Team Selection Process Criteria

1. Timeline for Selection & Registration



2. Quota Sizes per Region:

Gender	Region	Number of Teams
Men's Teams - 8	SOEE	4
	SOLA	1
	SOAP	1
	SOEA	0/1
	SOA	0/1
	SONA	1
	MENA	0/1
	Host Country	1
Women's Teams - 8	SOEE	2
	SOLA	1
	SOAP	1
	SOEA	1
	SOA	1
	SONA	1
	MENA	1
	Host Country	0

Should any region have a team that withdraws, the vacant spot will first be offered to the region that has one quota. If there is no interest from that region, SOI will determine which region will receive the reallocated spot.

3. Roster Size & Breakdown of Unified Team – Delegation

Team	Athletes	Unified Partners	Coaches	HOD	Medical	Total
Men's Team	6	6	1 Head Coach 1 Assistant Coach	1	N/A	15 Members
8 Teams, 96 Participants, 120 Delegation Members						
Women's Team	6	6	1 Head Coach 1 Assistant Coach	1	N/A	15 Members
8 Teams, 96 Participants, 120 Delegation Members						
Participant Total – 192						
Delegation Member Total – 240						

4. Age & Equal Level of Ability for all the teammates requirement

Following the Unified Sports Competitive model rules, the age for the cup will be over **15 years old**. The athlete and partner needs to be this age by the day of the opening ceremony on the 5th of October 2025.

The Unified Sports Competitive model combines approximately equal numbers of Special Olympics athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) as teammates on sport teams for training and competition.

- Meaningful involvement of all teammates in training and competition is a fundamental requirement of this model.
- All teammates on a Unified Sports Competitive team must have attained the necessary sport-specific skills and knowledge tactics to compete without modification of the current Special Olympics Official Sports Rules.

- Teammates must be of similar age and ability for all team sports. Similar means a comparable range of ages and ability levels.
- Please see 14.3 Special Olympics Competitive Sport-Specific Parameters.

5. Selection Procedure Criteria:

- A primary objective of this event for SOI, Regions and SO Programs will be to reach, expand cooperation and recognize professional volleyball clubs, their foundations, Volleyball federations and sponsors that support Special Olympics Unified Sports.
- Therefore, participating teams will be confirmed based on the Special Olympics program's ability to secure the commitment of a professional club/Volleyball federation/sponsor to support a Unified Volleyball team.
- Regions will receive a proposed target number of team slots to fulfill (see above).
- SO Program will be eligible to submit the Application that confirms their commitment and commitment from a Volleyball federation/Volleyball club/ sponsor/ partner to support the SO team. **(Link to on-line application at the bottom of this document).**
- The Applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee and evaluated based on:
 - the commitment of SO Program to develop Unified Volleyball;
 - the profile and reach of the club/federation/sponsor;
 - the strength of the partnership and commitment of the partner;
- After an application is reviewed and determined to be satisfactory, then the team slot will be confirmed.
- If the application(s) is not determined to be satisfactory from a region, than the slot may be opened up to other candidates from another region.

6. Additional factors of Teams Selection:

A. Distribution by regions:

Providing more quota for those regions with a strong and well-developed Unified Volleyball program, ambassadors program, and also where professional leagues and/or teams are most recognized worldwide.

B. SOI acknowledge additional requirements from regions:

- Commitment to Unified Volleyball development before and after the event;
- Current status and projected development of Unified Volleyball (to include coach education and training, player development, high quality and regular competition opportunities);
- Potential support from clubs/teams/partners;
- The expected public awareness and fund raising campaign set for the event.

C. Regional selection:

SO Program with strong Unified Volleyball (based on current Census status and development plans) will be offered a opportunity to apply via on-line form to present:

- Support from Volleyball federation, professional volleyball clubs or foundation, or other strategic partner – sponsor.
- Capacity to fund pre-competition training and travel expenses of the team to and from the Word Cup (All onsite costs such as ground transportation, meals, and housing will be covered by the host organizing committee).

D. SOI reserves the right to directly invite certain teams/clubs based on strategic priorities.

Applications with a written agreement with partner will be given priority.

A primary Partner/Sponsor might be recognized by the Unified Volleyball World Cup (per team)

7. Support from Volleyball federations, Volleyball clubs, their foundations, and sponsors-partner could include:

A. Unified Volleyball Training Support

- Partner Club/Sponsor may designate a technical coach(s) to help train the SO Unified Volleyball World Cup Team
- Partner Club/Sponsor may host a volleyball training clinic to certify Special Olympics Coaches for the Unified Volleyball World Cup team
- Partner Club/Sponsor may host Unified Volleyball training clinics for the Unified

Volleyball World Cup Team

- Partner Club/Sponsor may provide sports equipment and Uniforms for the Unified Volleyball World Cup Team

B. Travel support for the Unified Volleyball World Cup Team

- Partner Club/Sponsor will may provide travel support (airfare, meals, etc.) to and from the event.

C. Promotion and Marketing Support

- Partner Club/Sponsor may promote the Unified Volleyball World Cup Team, the Unified Volleyball World Cup and Unified Volleyball through Club's media channels
- Partner Club/Sponsor may conduct promotional/marketing activities at club matches for the Unified Volleyball World Cup Team

D. Sustainable Support

- Partner Club/Sponsor may commit to a multi-year Unified Volleyball development project with local program to support a sustainable Unified Volleyball league/tournament and coaches training program Partner

8. Volleyball Development:

Each program who submits an application for the Special Olympics World Unified Volleyball Cup agrees to participate in a SO Volleyball Development project in which they will work with local partners to ensure grassroots development of Volleyball and Unified Volleyball, utilizing global event as a catalyst for development.

9. Link to access the on-line [application form](#)