

#ITFWPC



# Teresa Leitão

## Special Olympics

**TOPIC 4**

Strategies for greater retention in  
sport and physical activity

**Special  
Olympics**



WORLDWIDE  
PARTICIPATION  
CONFERENCE  
LONDON 2019



# DIVISIONING



Like all athletes, Special Olympics athletes love **the thrill of competition** and pushing their limits to achieve a new personal best.

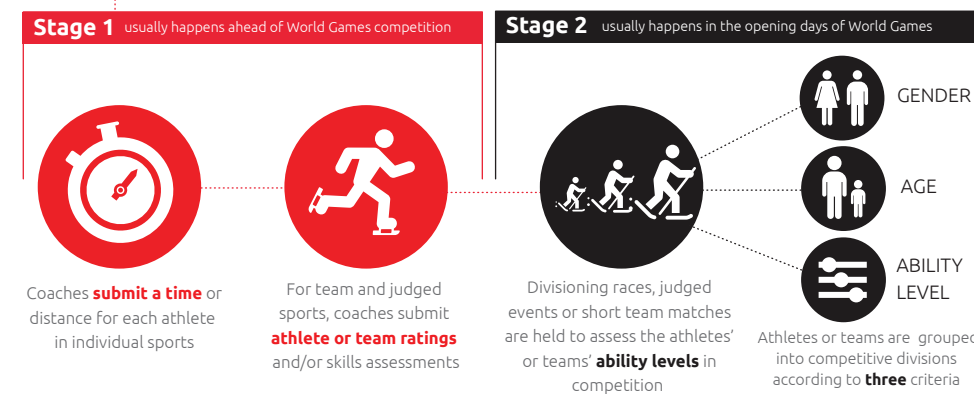
System of grouping athletes for competition by:

- Gender
- Age
- Ability Level

Ability Level most important  
Provide each athlete with a good competitive experience.



Special Olympics uses a unique system called **'divisioning'** to give athletes of all abilities the chance for exciting competition.



**HOW MANY ATHLETES OR TEAMS ARE IN A DIVISION?**

minimum of **3** maximum of **8**

**HOW ARE DIVISIONS SET?**

There should be no more than a **15%** difference between the most highly skilled athlete or team and the lowest skilled athlete or team in each division

**WHY DIVISIONING?**

Divisioning makes Special Olympics competitions fair, empowering and exciting

# SPORT SELECTION



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Multi Sport Organisation

22 Official Summer Sports

8 Official Winter Sports

Many locally popular sports

Provides choices for athletes based on:

Preference

Abilities



# UNIFIED SPORTS

In Unified Sports, individuals of all ability levels with and without intellectual disabilities engage together in high quality sports training and competitions to promote inclusion, friendship, excellence and personal achievement both on and off the playing field.



- Multiple Competition Models
- Multiple Delivery Models



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# ADDITIONAL ROLES FOR ATHLETES



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Outside of competition, our athletes have many other opportunities as:

- Coaches
- Officials
- Global Messengers
- Models
- Leaders



Leader and photographer



Global Messengers at UN Conference of States Parties to the CRPD



Coca Cola model



Started as an athlete and now is graduated in P.E. and is coaching athletics

# HOW DOES TENNIS SPECIFICALLY ENGAGE?



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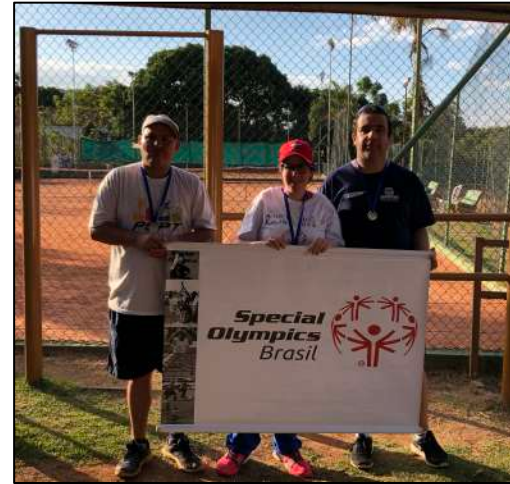
	TOTAL Athletes	% of total at Age Group	Male Athletes	Female Athletes	% Male	% Female
6 to 7	1172	3	842	330	72	28
8 to 15	15351	36	9724	5627	63	37
16 to 21	11453	27	6876	4577	60	40
22+	14321	34	8194	6127	57	43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42297</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25636</b>	<b>16661</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>39</b>

# STRATEGIES AROUND COMPETITION FOR MASTERS



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Coach Training in partnership with Sport Federations Coaching Clinics for athletes aged 30+ Partnerships with local clubs and female groups



Variety of Competitions Formats:

- Masters and Female Only
- Mixed Doubles
- Team







# Thank you @specialolympics

