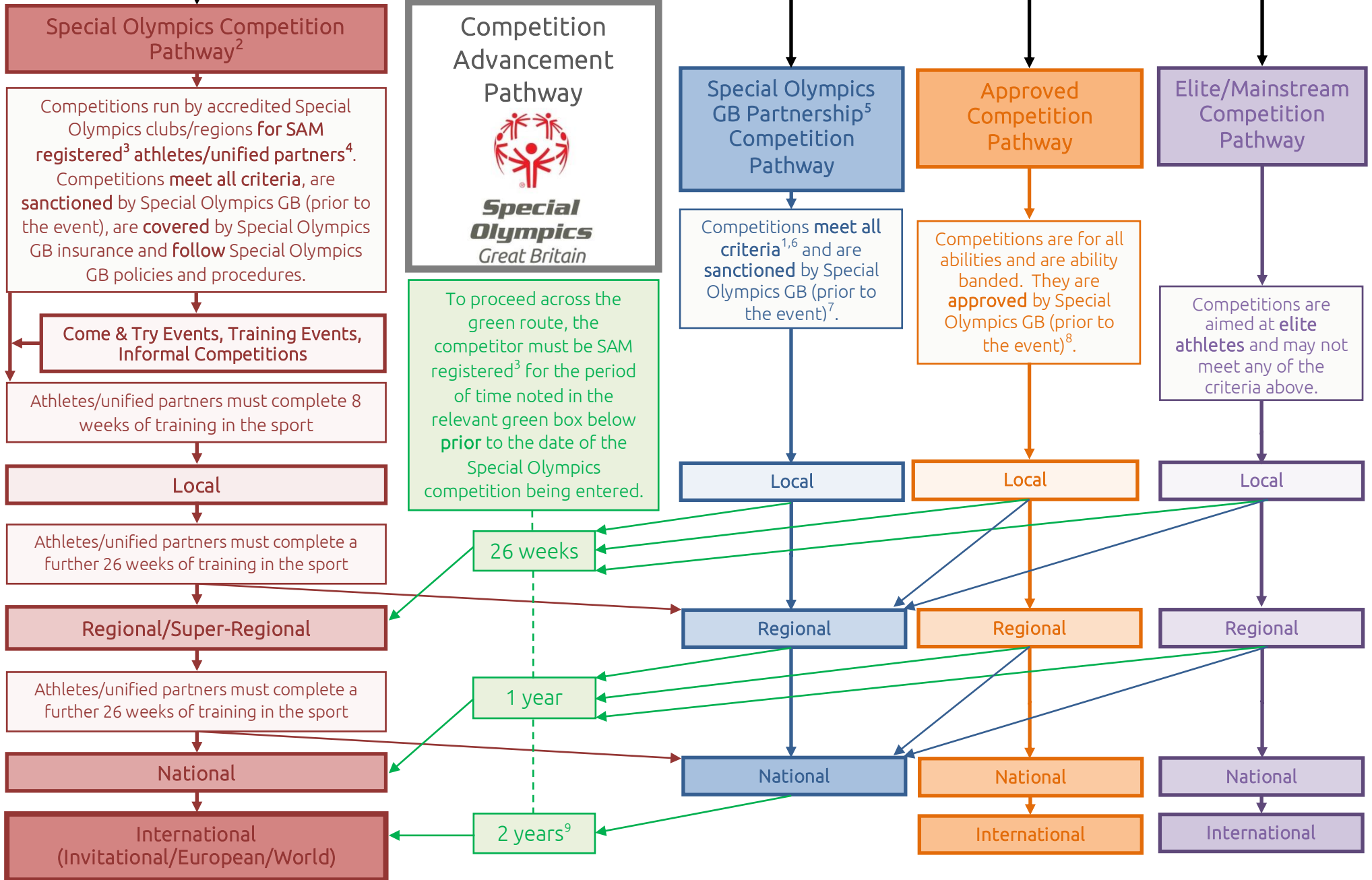


Competition criteria¹: Individuals with an intellectual disability / All abilities / Ability banded / Eight in a division / Awards for each division



¹Competition criteria explained:

- Athletes competing in events for individuals with an intellectual disability must meet the [Special Olympics GB eligibility criteria](#) i.e. they must have an intellectual disability and not a learning difficulty or another impairment
- The competition must be open to athletes of all abilities i.e. it cannot be just for elite athletes or those who reach a certain level of performance
- The competition must be grouped into divisions by ability so every competitor/team has a reasonable chance of winning their event. Special Olympics call this process 'divisioning' and an explanatory [video](#) is available which we recommend you watch
- There can be no more than eight competitors/teams in each division. To give meaningful competition, there should however be at least three competitors/teams in each division
- Awards must be presented for each division (medals can be given for 1st-3rd places, but another type of award such as ribbons, should be given for 4th-8th places). Participation awards should be given for disqualifications

²Please see the Event Management Guide and Minimum Standards documents for Local/Regional and National Special Olympics GB and Partnership Events for an explanation of all levels of Special Olympics GB competitions which are available on the [Special Olympics GB website](#) or from [Emily Onley](#).

³'SAM registered' (Special Olympics GB Athlete Membership) refers to an athlete who meets the [Special Olympics GB eligibility criteria](#), has completed all of the necessary paperwork and has been assigned a SAM number. A SAM registered unified partner is an individual who doesn't meet the [Special Olympics GB eligibility criteria](#) but competes alongside SAM registered athletes in [Unified Sports](#).

⁴Athletes/unified partners must be SAM registered to compete at all levels of Special Olympics competition. If event managers wish to invite non-SAM registered individuals to local/regional competitions, they must detail this on their sanction form, but note that these individuals can only compete as a 'guest' on **one competitive** occasion. This process can be used to encourage individuals to become SAM registered however, all participating athletes must meet the [Special Olympics GB eligibility criteria](#) i.e. they must have an intellectual disability and not just a learning difficulty or another impairment. For Special Olympics GB national competitions and above, all competitors must be SAM registered.

⁵ Examples of partnership competitions are:

- Inclusive events - where athletes with an intellectual disability compete alongside non-disabled athletes.
- Pan-disability competitions - involving athletes with other impairments as well as those with an intellectual disability.
- Competition just for athletes with an intellectual disability but which is arranged by another organisation in conjunction with Special Olympics GB.⁶For inclusive and pan-disability events where athletes with an intellectual disability compete alongside non-disabled athletes or athletes with other impairments the competition criteria applies **only** to those events for individuals with an intellectual disability.

⁷These events are covered by Special Olympics GB insurance because they fall within the terms of the Special Olympics GB Partnership Competition Definition document which are available on the [Special Olympics GB website](#).

⁸These events are not covered by Special Olympics GB insurance and may not follow Special Olympics GB policies and procedures however, prior to the event, a [Notification of an Approved Competition Pathway Event Form](#) must be submitted to Special Olympics GB so it can be advertised to the Special Olympics GB membership.

⁹Priority for representing Special Olympics GB at international events will be given to those individuals following the Special Olympics pathway.