



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION I
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF VIGAN CITY

ADVISORY NO. 127, s. 2026

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14 JUL 2026

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013
The advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001,
but only for the information of DepEd officials,
personnel/staff, as well as the concerned public.

**INVITATION TO THE JOIN THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS PILIPINAS SWIMMING
CHAMPIONSHIP**

This is in reference to the Regional Advisory No. 93, s. 2026 titled Invitation to Join the Special Olympic. The said competition will be held at Rizal Memorial Aquatic Center on July 26, 2026 open to athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) aged 15 years and above.

This sports event provides participants with an opportunity to showcase their skills, sportsmanship, determination, and passion for swimming in an inclusive and empowering environment. Moreover, this competition will serve as qualifying round for the upcoming Special Olympics World Games Santiago 2027 in Chile.

Enclosed is the Advisory No. 93, s. 2026 and the rules and guidelines of the competition for reference.

For further information, feel free to contact Mr. Zoren D. Alfonso, Sports Program Manager of Special Olympics Pilipinas at 0951-872-6463 or through email at zoren@specialolympics.org.

SGOD/SDF/ADV_Special_Olympics_Pilipinas_Swimming_Championship
July 13, 2026

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION I



Advisory No. 93, s. 2026
July 7, 2026

In compliance with DepEd Order (D.O) No. 8, s. 2013
but only for the information of DepEd Officials,
personnel/staff, as well as the concerned public.
(Visit www.deped.gov.ph)

**INVITATION TO JOIN THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS
PILIPINAS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP**

The Special Olympics Pilipinas will conduct the SO Pilipinas National Swimming Championship on July 26, 2026, at the Rizal Memorial Aquatic Center.

The competition is open to athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) aged 15 years and above. It provides participants with an opportunity to showcase their skills, sportsmanship, determination, and passion for swimming in an inclusive and empowering environment.

This event will also serve as a qualifying round for the upcoming Special Olympics World Games Santiago 2027 in Chile. Outstanding athletes from this competition may be considered for selection to the national team and the opportunity to represent the Philippines in the international competition.

Attached are the rules and guidelines for the aforementioned event for your reference.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Zoren D. Alfonso, Sports Program Manager of Special Olympics Pilipinas, via email at zoren@specialolympics.org or through mobile phone at 0951 872 6463.

For information and immediate dissemination.

ESSD/jp/Advisory.Special.Olympics.Swimming.National.Championship
July 7, 2026



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06 July, 2026

TO: ALL INTERESTED LGU, SDOs, NGOs

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO JOIN THE SO PILIPINAS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP

Warm greetings from Special Olympics Pilipinas!

We are honored to invite your team to participate in the upcoming **SO Pilipinas Swimming National Championship** to be held on July 26, 2026 at the Rizal Memorial Aquatic Center

The tournament will feature the following categories:

Competitive Level

• Category 1

- A. 50 Meters Freestyle
- B. 50 Meters Backstroke
- C. 50 Meters Breaststroke
- D. 50 Meters Butterfly

• Category 2

- E. 100 Meters Freestyle
- F. 100 Meters Backstroke
- G. 100 Meters Breaststroke
- H. 100 Meters Butterfly

This competition is **open to athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs)**, ages 15 years old and above, providing them with an opportunity to showcase their skills, sportsmanship, determination, and passion for swimming in an inclusive and empowering environment.

Please be informed that this event will also serve as a **qualifying round for the upcoming Special Olympics World Games Santiago 2027 in Chile**. Outstanding athletes from this competition may be considered for national selection and international representation.

The event also aims to strengthen camaraderie among participating teams and promote inclusion through sports while identifying potential athletes for future national and international competitions.

For your reference and preparation, we have attached the official competition guidelines, which include the event mechanics, eligibility requirements, and other important reminders.

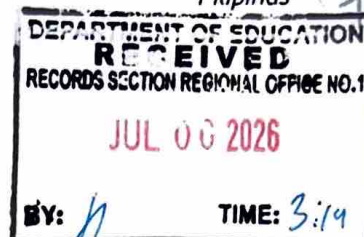
Should you need additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at zoren@specialolympicspilipinas.org or 09518726463.

We sincerely look forward to your participation and support in this meaningful sporting event.

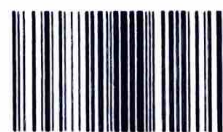
Sincerely,


ZOREN D. ALFONSO
Sports Program Manager
Special Olympics Pilipinas

Special Olympics
Pilipinas



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SPECIAL OLYMPICS PILIPINAS NATIONAL SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP

Rules and Guidelines

- **Event Date:** July 26, 2026
- **Organizer:** Special Olympics Pilipinas
- **Venue:** Rizal Memorial Aquatic Center

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to all officially registered **Special Olympics Pilipinas (SOP) Athletes** and **SOP-Unified Champion Schools (UCS) Athletes** with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

Athletes who are **not yet registered members of Special Olympics Pilipinas** may participate only upon presentation of:

- An **Official Invitation from Special Olympics Pilipinas**; and
- An **Official Recommendation or Endorsement from the athlete's school**.

All participating athletes must meet the eligibility requirements of Special Olympics Pilipinas and must be physically capable of safely participating in swimming events.

GENERAL RULES

The competition shall follow the official **Special Olympics Swimming Rules**, with modifications applicable to this competition.

All athletes must be officially registered and endorsed by their respective SOP Club, SOP-Unified Champion School (UCS), school, or recognized delegation.

Special Olympics Pilipinas reserves the right to verify athlete eligibility and participation documents before the competition.

All athletes, coaches, chaperones, and delegation members are expected to observe honesty, respect, discipline, and sportsmanship throughout the competition.

COMPETITION EVENTS

Athletes may participate in the following events:

CATEGORY 1 – 50-METER EVENTS

- 50 Meters Freestyle
- 50 Meters Backstroke
- 50 Meters Breaststroke
- 50 Meters Butterfly

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CATEGORY 2 – 100-METER EVENTS

- 100 Meters Freestyle
- 100 Meters Backstroke
- 100 Meters Breaststroke
- 100 Meters Butterfly

*Each athlete may participate in a **maximum of three (3) individual swimming events only.***

Athletes and coaches must carefully select the events to be entered during registration.

Once the official start list and competition schedule have been finalized, changes in event entries shall only be allowed upon approval of the Tournament or Competition Committee.

SWIMMING COMPETITION RULES

1. Athletes must report to the designated marshalling or call area before their scheduled event.
2. Athletes must be ready at least **10 minutes before their scheduled race.**
3. The official starting procedure shall be followed for all swimming events.
4. Athletes must complete the prescribed swimming distance and stroke for their registered event.
5. Proper stroke technique, starts, turns, and finishes shall be observed based on the applicable Special Olympics Swimming Rules.
6. False starts, improper strokes, or other technical violations shall be subject to the decision of the designated technical officials.
7. The decision of the technical officials during the competition shall be considered final, subject to the official protest procedure.

ATHLETE CONDUCT AND SAFETY

1. *Sportsmanship is strictly required at all times.*
2. *Athletes must respect technical officials, coaches, volunteers, fellow athletes, and event personnel.*
3. *Proper swimming attire is required during all competition events.*
4. *Athletes must immediately report any injury, illness, or medical concern to their coach, chaperone, or competition officials.*
5. *Coaches and chaperones are responsible for monitoring the safety and well-being of their athletes.*
6. *Any athlete who is deemed medically or physically unfit to compete may be withdrawn from an event upon the recommendation of the medical or competition team.*

WORLD GAMES SELECTION

*The **Special Olympics Pilipinas Swimming Competition 2026** shall also serve as a **selection and evaluation event for the Special Olympics World Games Santiago 2027 in Chile.***

Athlete performance during the competition shall be evaluated as part of the national team selection process.

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GOLD MEDAL SYSTEM PER CATEGORY

*World Games selection shall be based on the **Most Bemedalled Athlete – Gold Medal System per Category.***

Selection shall be conducted separately for:

- **Category 1 – 50-Meter Events**
- **Category 2 – 100-Meter Events**

*The athlete with the **highest number of Gold Medals earned within his/her respective category** shall be given priority for consideration in the World Games selection.*

In case of a tie in the number of Gold Medals, the following may be considered:

1. *Number of Silver Medals earned;*
2. *Number of Bronze Medals earned;*
3. *Official swimming times and overall performance;*
4. *Consistency of performance during the competition;*
5. *Athlete eligibility and compliance with Special Olympics requirements;*
6. *Coach and Technical Committee evaluation; and*
7. *Final evaluation of the Special Olympics Pilipinas National Selection Committee.*

*Winning a medal or obtaining the highest number of Gold Medals **does not automatically guarantee participation in the World Games.***

Final selection shall remain subject to:

- *World Games eligibility requirements;*
- *Special Olympics International rules and standards;*
- *Athlete medical clearance;*
- *Training attendance and commitment;*
- *Athlete availability;*
- *Travel and documentation requirements;*
- *Delegation quota and available slots; and*
- *Final approval of Special Olympics Pilipinas.*

The decision of the Special Olympics Pilipinas National Selection Committee shall be considered final.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals shall be awarded to the top-performing athletes in each event and official division.

Awards shall be based on the official competition results certified by the Technical and Competition Committee.

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COUNTERPART RESPONSIBILITIES

SPECIAL OLYMPICS PILIPINAS WILL PROVIDE:

- Competition and tournament management;
- Technical officiating coordination;
- Event guidelines and competition rules;
- Official event scheduling;
- Medals and certificates;
- Athlete performance evaluation; and
- World Games selection monitoring and evaluation.

PARTICIPATING CLUBS, SCHOOLS, UCS, AND DELEGATIONS SHALL:

- Submit accurate athlete information and event entries;
- Ensure athlete eligibility;
- Provide appropriate coaches or chaperones;
- Monitor athlete safety and attendance;
- Coordinate travel and transportation arrangements; and
- Ensure compliance with competition rules and guidelines.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

*Athletes may participate in a maximum of **three (3) events only**.*

Athletes must report to the marshalling or call area before their scheduled event.

Participants are advised to bring their own swimming attire, goggles, caps, towels, and personal necessities.

Coaches must ensure that athletes are entered in events appropriate to their swimming ability.

The official competition schedule and start list shall be provided before the start of the event.

Special Olympics Pilipinas reserves the right to amend or modify these guidelines when necessary for athlete safety, fair competition, and proper event management.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

LGU participants may be requested to submit:

1. **List of Participants**
2. **Medical Clearance / Athlete Health Form** (if applicable)
3. **PWD ID (if available)**
 - *PWD ID is encouraged but not mandatory unless specified*
4. **Parent/Guardian Consent Form** (for minors)

FEES AND COSTS

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- Participation in the Special Olympics Pilipinas Swimming Competition is generally **FREE of registration fee.**
- Any additional expenses, including transportation, accommodation, meals, personal swimming equipment, and additional allowances, shall be the responsibility of the participating club, school, UCS, or delegation unless otherwise stated by Special Olympics Pilipinas.

CONTACT AND COORDINATION

For confirmation, coordination, and submission of entries, please contact:
Special Olympics Pilipinas – Swimming Secretariat

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