

# Maximum Effort Rule

**Updated 1.8.24**

Special Olympics Montana recognizes a modified format of the SOI Maximum Effort Rule, which is described in Chapter 11 of the SOI Article 1 of Sports Rules. The Maximum Effort Rule allows SOMT competitions to be more accurately divisioned and provides better competition opportunities (the max effort rule will not apply to certain sports, as will be noted).

Per Special Olympics International Article 1 of Sports Rules—

- 11.2.2.1 - Percentage Rule - A percentage is established and published for each event in which the rule will be applied. Athletes and teams may not exceed this percentage of improvement from their divisioning score to their final score. If an athlete or team exceeds this performance percentage, disqualification may take place.

**Max Effort Rule-** If an athlete's final performance at a state-level competition exceeds his or her submitted divisioning score by x% (See chart at end of document for exact percentages), the athlete will be subject to\* the following restrictions (**coaches may submit new scores up to the final registration due date**)

**1<sup>st</sup> time offense-** LPC will receive an official warning on behalf of the athlete.

**2<sup>nd</sup> time offense-** LPC will be notified that the athlete will not be eligible to qualify for advancement to the next offered World and/or USA games. Example- If any athlete offends at SSG 2025, they would not be eligible for advancement to the USA Games or World Summer Games, whichever comes next.

**3<sup>rd</sup> time offense-** LPC will be notified that the athlete will receive a suspension from the state-level game in which the offense occurred for the following year.

**4<sup>th</sup>+ time offense-** The 3<sup>rd</sup> time offense will be utilized for all offenses after the 3<sup>rd</sup> time.

In addition, it is not SOMT's intent to discourage athlete participation from games, as that is in direct contradiction of the mission, however, it is also a contradiction to not provide meaningful competition. As a result, entire teams and delegations will be subject to the following sanctions in the event 25% of the team's athletes/unified partners exceed the max effort rule. The following rule and sanctions are explained—

**LPC and Coach Honest Score Submission Rule-** If 25% of a team's athletes/unified partners violate the max effort rule, the following restrictions will be enacted—

**1<sup>st</sup> time offense-** LPC will receive an official warning on behalf of the delegation.

**2<sup>nd</sup> time offense-** LPC will be notified all athletes in delegation will not be eligible for advancement to the next offered World and/or USA games. Example- If the delegation offends at SSG 2025, the athletes

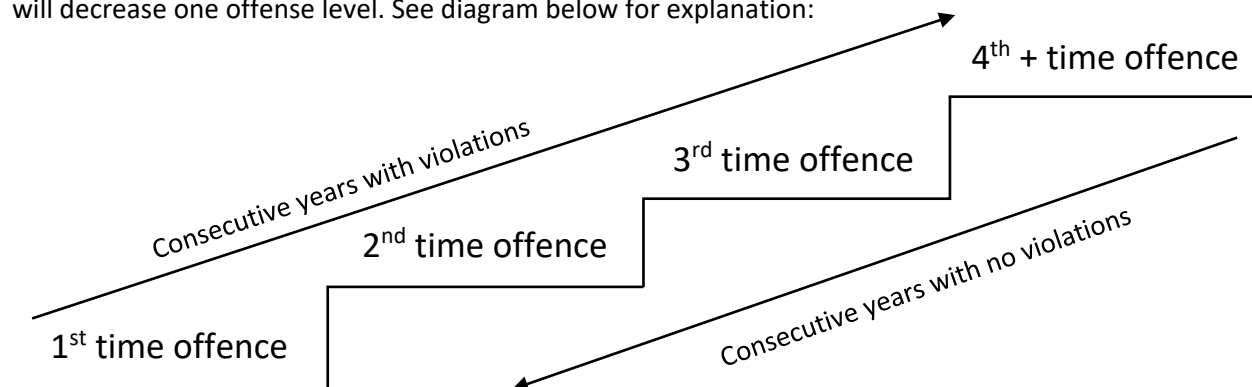
of that delegation would not be eligible for advancement to the USA Games or World Summer Games, whichever comes next.

**3<sup>rd</sup> time offense-** LPC will be notified that the entire delegation will receive a suspension from the state-level game in which the offense occurred for the following year.

**4<sup>th</sup>+ time offense-** The 3<sup>rd</sup> time offense will be utilized for all offences after the 3<sup>rd</sup> time.

**The tracking of violations game-to-game-** Max Effort Rule violations will be reviewed and tracked for each individual games. For example- A violation at State Summer Games will not affect a separate games, such as Bowling Championships. Each will have its own violation tallies.

**Decreasing of Restrictions-** For each games a competitor does not commit a violation, their restrictions will decrease one offense level. See diagram below for explanation:



**How team violation percentage is found-** Team violation percentage is found using team's total competitor count. Formula: Competitors with violation / total team competitors.

*\*Following state level competitions, the proper process to determine violations will be—*

1. State Games scores will be entered at the State Office.
2. If scores are flagged as a violation, the occurrence will be noted.
3. The occurrence will be reviewed by SOMT Sports staff, and in certain cases, there will be an exception given to the x% rule at the Sports staffs' discretion.
  - a. For example, in the standing long jump, if an athlete's submitted score is 0.25 meters, and the athlete jumps 0.40 meters (60% difference), a violation would not be observed, as the percentage is high, but the real-life application of the difference is minimal in the competition.
4. If it is confirmed as a violation, it will be recorded by SOMT Sports staff.
5. SOMT Sports staff will notify the offending team's LPC by email and administer the appropriate restriction to the LPC.

### **Unique Score Submission Requirement**

To assure that athletes are receiving meaningful practice time in preparation for State Games, all athletes/unified partners and teams will be required to have honest and accurate individual scores

Updated: 1/8/2024		
Sport	General % for violation	Notes
Basketball	n/a	Pools created based on submitted scores, cross pool play on day two with re-divisioning after day one play. Obvious cases of sandbagging by submitted score or during day one of play will be put into the max effort violation protocol.
Bowling	40, 50, 60	Sliding scale. 60 for 49 or less, 50 for 50-99, 40 for 100+
Alpine Skiing	40	Area Game Only. Will be reviewed in World Games qualifying years.
Snowboarding	40	Area Game Only. Will be reviewed in World Games qualifying years.
Cross-country skiing	40	Area Game Only. Will be reviewed in World Games qualifying years.
Snowshoeing	40	Area Game Only. Will be reviewed in World Games qualifying years.
Floor Hockey	n/a	Area Level Only. Will not receive review.
MATP	n/a	Adaptive sports
Golf	40	Would be a narrower percentage, but varied practice courses must allow for a wider gap.
Soccer	n/a	Pool play in morning, followed by redivisioning.
Bocce	n/a	Currently no metrics to accurately determine violation.
Gymnastics	n/a	Judged event based on levels. No scores submitted.
Swimming	40	Individual events only.
Cycling	40	
Powerlifting	40	Judgement will be based on double or triple combos.
Athletics	40	Individual events only.

submitted to compete at a State Level event. If there is not a submitted score, the athlete or team involved will be scratched from the event. The Max Effort Rule will apply to the score submitted, and it is the LPC's responsibility to ensure all scores submitted are accurate.

### ***Violation Percentages by Sport***