



## **Return to Activities Memo**

First and foremost, we hope that you and your loved ones are healthy! On behalf of the entire Special Olympics Colorado (SOCO) staff, thank you for your patience and for being such a valued member of our community.

I know the past several months have been stressful and it is clear how much our community, particularly our athletes, rely on sport and SOCO to connect with others, cope with stress and stay active.

To those who have returned to practice, thank you for the positive and helpful feedback as we focus on a safe "Return to Activities". It has been wonderful to hear how excited everyone has been having the chance to get back on the playing field and connect with teammates.

Below, please find updates on the following:

1. Return to Practice (Summer and Fall Seasons)
2. Competitions
3. Summer & Fall Schedules

### **Return to Practice:**

As of July 1, SOCO was thrilled to offer teams the option to return to practice in Bocce, Cycling, Golf, Tennis and Triathlon, utilizing the Return to Practice Guidelines.

SOCO's Fall Season Sports Offerings (groups of 15 or fewer):

- Bocce (Session 2)
- Flag Football Skills (including Punt, Pass, Kick)
- Snowshoeing
- Track and Field (offered virtually for individuals or with a team/coach)
- Motor Activities Training Program (offered virtually)

\*Bowling is still being evaluated

Teams returning to practice will be sent a "COVID Kit" including resources, sign-in sheets and more, and the option to have PPE mailed or to purchase on own and be reimbursed by SOCO.

We hope many athletes will join us for this modified Fall Season which includes options to participate with your team or individually from home!

For athletes who would like to try a new sport or teams needing additional coaching support, feel free to reach out to your Regional Manager.

More details will be shared at the Fall Coaches Meeting on August 25th!

### **Special Olympics Colorado**

12450 East Arapahoe Road, Suite C, Centennial, CO 80112 Tel 720 359 3100 Fax 303 592 1364  
[www.SpecialOlympicsCO.org](http://www.SpecialOlympicsCO.org)

### **Competition:**

We have made the extremely difficult decision to not hold any in-person state or regional competitions for the remainder of 2020.

I know this will be very disappointing for many, however our #1 priority is the health and safety of our community. Additionally, we feel that offering a hybrid season will give athletes the chance to compete, connect and stay active while having the best and safest experience possible.

As an organization, we are 100% committed to offering opportunities for athletes to participate in sports AND celebrate the hard-work put in through a competitive model which allows athletes to earn ribbons and medals.

Specifically, for the Summer and Fall seasons, we will offer:

- "Intersquad Competitions" (among own team) where teams can:
  1. Request ribbons and hold an "Intersquad Competition" on own
  2. Request a staff member come to practice to run a competition
- Virtual State Games, including festivities like Opening Ceremonies, a victory dance and the Champions Highlight Show
- "Drive-By Awards Ceremony" at SOCO State & Regional Offices, complete with an awards backdrop, music and fanfare

### **Schedule:**

#### **Summer Season**

- July 1 – Sept. 11: Summer Practice (teams may end season earlier)
- August 15-29: Summer "Intersquad Competition" at Practice
- September 11: Summer Classic Entry Forms Due
- September 19: Virtual State Summer Classic
- September TBD: Awards Ceremony at State & Regional Offices

#### **Fall Season**

- August 25: Fall Coaches Call (Zoom invite to come)
- September 6: Fall Season Practice Begins
- October TBD: Fall "Intersquad Competition" at Practice
- November 7: Fall Classic Entries Due
- November 14: Virtual State Fall Classic
- November TBD: Awards Ceremony at State & Regional Offices

We encourage everyone to stay connected and involved through our SOCO @ Home resources and activities. We are also launching a 5K Training Program on August 9th and everyone is invited to join.

Thank you always for your patience and support.

Stay safe, healthy and happy and please reach out to me or your Regional Manager with any questions or concern