

Phase 2 COVID-19 Update



SOOR Phase 2 Easy Read

Special Olympics Oregon (SOOR) is excited to announce that we will be entering Phase 2 of our return to limited in-person activities for Winter 2022!

When will Phase 2 start?

Phase 2 will take effect on January 1, 2022, and it is currently scheduled to continue until at least March 31, 2022.

What makes an athlete eligible/ approved to participate in Phase 2?

In order for athletes to be eligible for in-person activities, all participants must complete the required paperwork:

1. Athlete Application of Participation (also known as the Athlete Medical Form)
 2. COVID-19 Communicable Disease Participant Waiver
 3. COVID-19 Code of Conduct & Risk Assessment Form.
- Athletes must complete the documents in this packet, and get a new medical signed by a licensed physician, even if you have sent in a new medical within the last 3 years.
 - Athletes **MUST** have all three (3) documents completed and submitted before they can participate in **any in-person** SOOR activities.
 - If an athlete has an incomplete or missing document, they will **NOT** be classified as an approved athlete and will **NOT** be able to attend any SOOR in-person events until we receive the missing information/document.
 - These documents are in addition to any Local Program documentation that you may be asked to complete or sign (Seasonal Registration Form/ Athlete Behavioral Code of Conduct, etc.)

Will all Local Programs be offering in-person activities?

- Some Local Programs will be returning to in-person activities in January/ February; However, others may not be ready to return until Spring 2022.
- Examples of why some local programs may not be ready to return to in-person activities:
 1. Local Program (LP) cannot use or reserve their sport facilities due to COVID-19 limitations.
 2. LP doesn't have enough coaches and volunteers to adhere to the 4:1 athlete/ coach ratio.
 3. LP may not have a full management team in place to support setting up and overseeing the programs.

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- If your Local Program does choose to offer in-person activities, they will also have the choice to decide:
 1. When to start and finish the season.
 2. Which indoor/outdoor sport(s) to offer.
 3. How many participants (up to 50) will participate per training site.
 4. How many trainings will be offered.
- To find out if your program will be offering a sport or an event this winter season, please contact your Local Program directly or contact the State Office via phone **503.248.0600** or email us at info@soor.org.

What sports will be offered in Phase 2?

In Phase 2, Local Programs may choose to host sports training and activities from the following list:

INDOOR SPORTS

- **Aquatics** - Masking required except when in the water or actively engaged in the sport.
- **Basketball** - Team play allowed. Masks required at all times.
- **Bowling** - Masks required at all times.
- **Powerlifting** - Masks required at all times.

OUTDOOR SPORTS (OR INDOOR)

- **Athletics** - All running, walking, rolling events, softball throw + running & standing long jump: Masking required except for during aerobic/rigorous activity.
- **Bocce** - Masks required at all times.
- **Snow Sports** – Needs to be approved by SOOR State Office.

ADDITIONAL SOOR CLUB SPORTS

- **Hiking/Walking Clubs**
- **Fitness Clubs**
- **One-day/ Multi-day sport experiences**

Do Athletes and all other participants have to wear Masks?

- Yes, all participants will be required to wear a mask - regardless of vaccine status.
- The only time athletes will not have to wear a mask is when they are participating in aerobic/rigorous physical activity – such as running/cross-country skiing/swimming

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- Low impact, non-aerobic sports/activities such as bowling and individual sports skills events will require participants to wear a mask at all times indoors or outside

What other safety protocols will be in place?

- **Gathering Size:** No more than a total of 50 eligible participants will be allowed to gather for Special Olympics Oregon sports training. Teams must adhere to the 4:1 athlete to coach/chaperone ratio.
- **No Spectators:** Parents, caregivers, and other spectators will NOT be permitted to attend sports training. This is to assure safety and consistency in attendance.
- **Social distancing & Screening:** Participant screening, distancing, and sanitation protocols will be in place for each training session.
- **Safety Managers:** Volunteer COVID Safety Manager(s) will be responsible for setting up the venue to ensure that everyone is safe from the time they arrive to the time they depart the training venue.
- **Coach Training:** Sport by sport examples and best practices will be shared to assist coaches and organizers in implementing safe play protocols

Does SOOR require athletes to be vaccinated to participate?

- Currently, SOOR does NOT require the vaccine to return to in-person participation.
- We also do not currently collect data on who has and has not been vaccinated or have a reliable means to track this prior to registration for the upcoming season.
- **Special Olympics encourages everyone who has access to the COVID-19 vaccine, to get vaccinated.** The vaccine will help protect you from getting COVID-19.
- If you still get infected after you get vaccinated, the vaccine works to prevent serious illness. By getting vaccinated, you also help protect people around you.
- People with intellectual disabilities are almost 6 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than the general population. The vaccine helps to reduce the risk of serious disease and death.

Will SOOR still be offering Virtual Programming?

- Yes, SOOR will still be offering Virtual Programming
- Programs currently being offered include:
 - **SOOR Active**
 - Special Olympics Oregon launched this at-home wellness community in April 2020 and it has grown to more than 1,250 members.
 - SOOR Active provides on-going virtual health education, wellness, sport, fitness, and social experiences.

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- SOOR Active will continued in the future but will modify programming as we return to in person experiences moving forward.
- **Esports presented by PlayStation**
 - Special Olympics Oregon introduced SOOR Esports presented by PlayStation as another way for athletes and Unified partners to engage in meaningful social interaction through on-line skills training and competition.
 - To date, more than 200 players have participated in Unified Rocket League and Fortnite training and competitions.
 - Esports will continue year-round.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

- If you have questions, please reach out to your Local Program.
- You can also contact SOOR State Office via phone **503.248.0600** or email us at info@soor.org