

# Phase 3 COVID-19 Update



Special Olympics Oregon (SOOR) is excited to announce that it will be expanding in-person activities to Phase 3.

## When will Phase 3 start?

Phase 3 will take effect on April 16, 2022.

## What makes an athlete eligible/ approved to participate in Phase 3?

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 these documents, 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?

- All Local Programs will now have the opportunity to host in-person events starting in April.
- However, Local Programs will have the flexibility when making the following choices:
  - Which sport(s) to offer
  - Whether sports will be offered as training only or for training *and* competition
  - How many participants will participate per training site
- This flexibility also means that some local program may choose to **NOT** offer any official sports training or competition participation during the Phase 3 Summer Season due to a variety of reasons including:
  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.

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3. LP may not have a full management team in place to support setting up and overseeing the programs.
- To find out if your program will be offering a sport or an event, please contact your Local Program directly or contact the State Office via phone **503.248.0600** or email us at [info@soor.org](mailto:info@soor.org).

## What sports will be offered in Phase 3?

In Phase 3, Local Programs may choose to host sports training and activities from the following list:

- Official SOOR Summer Sports (regional competitions will be offered in these 4 sports):
  - Athletics
  - Bocce
  - Golf
  - Softball
- Out of Season/Club Sports (training only) – please consult with SOOR staff before offering:
  - Hiking/Walking Clubs
  - Fitness Clubs
  - One-day sport experiences
  - Other

## Do Athletes and all other participants have to wear Masks in Phase 3?

- All participants are still recommended but not required to wear a mask - regardless of vaccine status.
- Masking will be required for all participants when on Special Olympics transportation.

## What about the other safety protocols?

- **Gathering Size:** There will be no restrictions related to gathering for Special Olympics Oregon sports training in Phase 3, However teams must still keep a 4:1 athlete to coach ratio.
- **Spectators:** Spectators will be allowed to attend but Local Programs reserve the right to restrict spectator access during training based on facility or other circumstances. Separation still encouraged where possible.
- **Social Distancing & Sanitization:** Distancing will still be encouraged when possible and sanitation protocols should remain in place for each training session.
- **COVID & Coach Training:** Sport by sport examples and best practices will be shared to assist coaches and organizers in implementing safe play protocols as well as a COVID-19 Safety Training will be provided to Local Program leaders and head coaches

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## 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.
    - SOOR Active will continue 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](mailto:info@soor.org)