



FAQ | Spring Season and Coronavirus Impact

Current as of March 16, 2020

Q: How many participants are impacted by the cancelation of practices and regional competitions?

A: More than 7,200 athletes and coaches participate in our spring season athletic programs and competitions.

Q: How many athletes were expected at the State Spring Games?

A: Approximately 1,800 athletes were expected to compete at our State Spring Games.

Q: What, if any, economic impact will there be from canceling the State Spring Games?

A: Special Olympics Washington is in good shape financially and we don't expect these disruptions to have long lasting, significant impact on our financial position at either the state or local levels.

Q: Why are you canceling your State Spring Games rather than just postponing the event?

A: There were three main factors that went into our decision to cancel our State Spring Games:

1. The uncertainty of when we would have the all-clear to resume our training programs;
2. The availability of venues; and
3. Many of our athletes and coaches participate in multiple seasons. It is our hope that we will be able to resume our training programs in time for our summer season so postponing our State Spring Games would impact athletes and coaches who participate in our summer season sports.

Q: When do you expect to resume your programs for athletes?

A: We are monitoring the situation closely and following guidance from the CDC, DOH and the international headquarters for Special Olympics. But, at this time we cannot pinpoint a specific timeline for when we will resume practices and programs as usual. Doing what we can to protect the safety and health of our athletes is our top priority.

Q: Will there be any impact to summer season?

A: Currently, it's difficult to predict the impact on our summer season. However, we are operating with business as usual and maintaining the original registration deadlines set for summer season.

Q: Is the Special Olympics Washington headquarters office operating business as usual? What steps have you taken to ensure the safety of your employees?

A: We are fortunate to have a great IT infrastructure that allows all Special Olympics Washington staff to carry on normal business operations remotely. In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, all Special Olympics Washington staff have been directed to work from home. We will be reassessing this arrangement on a weekly basis.