LET ME WIN.
BUT IF I CANNOT WIN,
LET ME BE BRAVE IN THE ATTEMPT.
Special Olympics Athlete Oath

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COVID-19 Resources

Centers for Disease Control CDC website

Kansas Department of Health and Environment KDHE website

March 18, 2020

Dear Special Olympics Kansas community,

We truly appreciate everyone's patience as we continue to monitor the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation in Kansas and throughout the US. We are charged with making difficult decisions about how to move forward while keeping the health and safety of everyone involved as a top priority. We know that now is not a time for panic, but it is also not a time for business as usual. We must adapt and continue to evaluate the situation as it evolves.

On Monday, 3/9, we shared our decision to suspend all sports training and competition for Special Olympics Kansas athletes through March 23.

Due to recent developments, including new COVID-19 cases in Kansas, and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Special Olympics International, we have decided to **extend this decision through May 15, 2020.** There are several outside organizations and host facilities that have already determined that local spring games are cancelled and we know there are more to come. Additionally, the availability of volunteer groups is questionable as many civic groups, churches, companies, etc. are advising their members against being in large groups, in many cases cautioning against groups of 10 or more people. All of these factors have contributed to our decision.

Here is how we ask all Special Olympics Kansas teams and programs to proceed with activities through May 15:

- All **sport practices** between now and May 15 are cancelled.

Fitness Resources

I-70 Challenge

Fit 5 Wellness Guide







- All **sport (local, regional and state) events** between now and May 15 are cancelled.
- All **in-person health and wellness programs** between now and May 15 are cancelled.
- **In-person fundraising events** will be postponed until later dates. (visit ksso.org/events for the most up to date information)
- **Unified Champion Schools** competitions operated by SOKS are cancelled as schools are closed to in-person activities for the remainder of the year.

A final decision regarding the state-level Summer Games will be made at a later date. At this time, our plan is to hold activities at Maize South June 5-7. We know athletes will not be in a position to train and prepare for the SOKS Summer Games. We are, however, spending more time looking at our options and the possibility of creating a sports festival or other modified Summer Games. We know both coaches and athletes want to get back together. Please know that we do too.

We are all extremely disappointed to be in a position where we cannot offer every opportunity possible to athletes across the state but this decision is based on the current circumstances and with everyone's health and well-being at the forefront.

We will continue to be in communication with you over the coming weeks and we look forward to resuming regular activities as soon as possible. In the meantime we encourage you to visit our website, ksso.org, and find us on Facebook where we will be sharing fitness information and best practices for staying active and fit at home. We wish everyone well. Be safe.

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Sincerely,

John Lair, President & CEO
Special Olympics Kansas

Special Olympics Kansas

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