



RETURN TO PLAY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What sports can programs be participating in during the first three months of the Return to play transition?

A: During the first 3 months of the Return to Play plan (July 6th – September 30th), Special Olympics Ohio is only endorsing the training and competition of Fall Sports, which includes Equestrian, Flag Football, Golf, Softball, and Soccer. Any other sport competition or training should not be taking place in the name of Special Olympics Ohio. Guidelines on Winter Sports (Basketball, Swimming, and Cheerleading) will be sent out in mid-September.

Q: How many times do Athletes/Unified Partners/Coaches/Volunteers need to sign the waiver?

A: Athletes/Unified Partners/Coaches/Volunteers/Local Coordinators only need to sign the waiver once, even if they are participating or volunteering for more than one sport.

Q: Where can we find the sport specific guidelines?

A: You can find all resources related to Return to Play, including the Sport Specific Guidelines, on the Special Olympics Ohio website. <https://sooh.org/return-to-play/>

Q: Can we still do fundraising events?

A: Yes, Local program can still have fundraising events as long as they are following the return to play guidelines.

- Complying with the maximum number of people in each phase
- Maintaining a social distance of at least 6ft
- All attendees using facial coverings
- Please see the rest of the return to play guidelines to ensure you are in compliance.

Q: Does the limit on the number of people at events/practices/competitions include volunteers or is this only athletes?

A: The maximum number of people laid out in the guidelines includes all personal, athletes, Unified Partners, Coaches, Volunteers, Local Coordinators, staff, etc.

- 10 people total in Month 1
- 20 people total in Month 2
- 30 people total in Month 3

Q: If an athlete has a doctor's note stating that they can't wear a mask, can they still participate?

A: Facial Coverings must be worn at all times, unless athletes/Unified partners are actively participating in a sport activity. However, if there is an athlete who has a medical reason that they can't wear a facial covering then they will need to have a note from their Doctor and that note needs to be given to the Local Coordinator.

Q: Are there specific return to play guidelines for Young Athlete Programs?

A: There are not specific Return to play guidelines for Young Athlete programs, these programs should follow the same return to play guidelines.



Q: What are the best places to purchase PPE (personal protective equipment)?

A: SOOH Director of Health Strategies, Amy O’Neil, has compiled a list of places to purchase PPE for local programs. Please [Click HERE](#) to access that list.

Q: Will there be skills competition opportunities for athletes who traditionally participate in team sports, but their local organization may not be offering team competition this year?

A: Yes, Katie has put together skills competitions for athletes of all abilities, this will include traditional skills and skills for athletes that usually competition in team competition.

Q: Do athletes have to have their own equipment?

A: Yes, all athletes should be using their own equipment. However, It is suggested to identify a coach at practice to be in charge for cleaning equipment that may be “shared” after each use. For example, in Softball have a volunteer who’s role is to strictly clean the bat after each use if there is only one or two or clean the ball after each use. For sports that are using balls, softball, soccer, and flag football, have multiple balls so that you can continue to clean after each use.

Q: If we are using multiple fields during a practice, can we have more than 10 people at the facility as a whole?

A: If you are utilizing a facility that has multiple fields, Local coordinators may spread out teams or individuals into groups that compile with the maximum number of people. You must ensure that there will not be large gatherings in the common areas of the facility, such as the parking lot, bathrooms, etc. If you have the ability to be at facility with multiple fields, we suggest have groups have separate start, drop off, transition, end times so that you can minimize the chance of any larger gatherings.

Q: What are other programs doing?

A: We understand that all programs are doing something different. We have found that a lot of programs are using this first month back to focus on smaller group conditioning then transitioning to sport specific practices in the second month. However, these guidelines have been put in place so you can still design a return to play plan that is specific to your own organization and your own athletes.

I have put together a Google Drive to share ideas across regions. In this google drive you will find all the Return to Play Materials and you will find an excel document that organizations can share what they are doing if they aren’t participating in sports (fitness influencer challenge, step challenge, boredom buster, rock painting, etc.) You can also upload any pictures/files/etc. that you would like to share with everyone.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE GOOGLE DRIVE](#)