



## **Update to 2022 State Cycling Competition**

May 5, 2022

**Special Olympics Washington is announcing the postponement of the state cycling competition this spring season due to challenges securing a safe and adequate venue for the sport.** This competition typically takes place as part of State Spring Games at Joint-Base Lewis McChord in Tacoma, Washington.

When the decision to host the 2022 Spring Games was confirmed, Special Olympics Washington worked diligently with past leadership, venue managers and Joint-Base Lewis McChord to obtain the course used in past years on base. We were unfortunately notified that the previous course used for competition would not be available due to the opening of a new main gate location with car traffic that would directly impede the cycling course. Work began immediately to find another suitable location in the Tacoma area that would provide a safe and meaningful experience for all. Unfortunately, all potential sites were deemed unsuitable or presented too many challenges to host the cycling competition on June 18 and 19.

We recognize the value, excitement, and joy of being able to compete with athletes around the state, and attend other social aspects of the event, throughout the weekend of Spring Games. In an effort to provide a meaningful experience for cyclists, **Special Olympics Washington, along with key volunteers and partners, will host a 2-day state cycling competition during the 2022 summer season. The date and location are being confirmed and will be communicated to coaches as soon as possible so you can plan for this experience.**

Athletes and programs who have been training in cycling this spring are encouraged to continue their training until the rescheduled competition this summer. We understand many athletes compete in multiple seasons so cycling athletes will also be able to train and compete during the summer season to ensure they do not miss the opportunity to compete in their summer sport of choice.

We understand this will come as a disappointment to many and we share in your disappointment. Special Olympics Washington is committed to offering an opportunity for cyclists to showcase their hard work and talents, and “go for the gold” this summer season.

We will be communicating the details of the rescheduled cycling competition to head coaches as soon as we have them. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to Stephen Opland, Director of Competition and Operations; [sopland@sowa.org](mailto:sopland@sowa.org)