

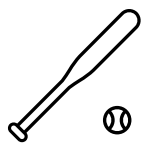


2022 Summer Season Update

May 5, 2022

Special Olympics Washington is excited to rebuild local programming and continue offering in-person training and competition opportunities this summer season. To enhance support for local programs and provide more opportunities for more athletes to compete on local and regional levels, Special Olympics Washington will be restructuring its summer season:

- There will be increased local competition opportunities as well as the opportunity for teams to try new sports.
- We will not be hosting our State Summer Games. Instead, we'll be hosting regionals at the end of the season with additional activities and initiatives to provide a similar experience to State Summer Games.



Sports

- Bocce, Golf, Softball, Tennis



Competition – League Play & Enhanced Regionals

- Drive local competition opportunities for increased number of competitions - 'League Play'
- There will be no State Games, so Regionals will be pushed back to the end of the season with additional activities and initiatives to provide similar experience to State Games



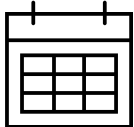
Virtual Opportunity – CommUNITY Challenge

- Join us for a race across Washington! Engage your community to connect and compete in distance traveled and funds raised over 4 weeks with opportunities to celebrate in person



Program Development – Emphasis on Coach Recruitment & Sports Development

- Special Olympics Washington will be increasing efforts to recruit and train coaches for all seasons
- Opportunities for programs on the local level to offer new sports to athletes that are outside of the "official" Special Olympics Washington sports (e.g. pickleball)



Timeline

- Summer Season - June 20 – August 21
- Summer Season Townhall (coaches only) – May 24
- Summer Season COVID Protocols – End of May
- CommUNITY Challenge – July 20 – August 20;
(registration opens in mid-June)
- Regional Competition – Late July-early August

Programs are encouraged to start securing practice facilities, communicating with their teams on what they intend to offer and begin verifying individual paperwork. Athlete and Unified partner registration packets can be found at <https://specialolympicswashington.org/return-to-activities/> under “General Resources for All.”

We look forward to another successful season and are grateful for our athletes, coaches, and volunteers for ensuring our athletes are getting back on the fields with their teammates!

For questions about Summer Season, please contact: RTA@sowa.org