



**FAQ: Special Olympics Washington / Washington State Phase 3**

*Current as of March 26, 2021*

**Q: Washington State has moved on to phase 3. Why isn't Special Olympics Washington allowing in-person practices or gatherings?**

The safety and health of our athletes, coaches, volunteers and staff is our utmost concern. We understand that in Washington State's phase three of reopening, larger gatherings are allowed. Before we restart any **official** Special Olympics Washington practices, trainings or gatherings, we want to first ensure the proper safety protocols are in place. With an organization our size – and athletes, coaches, volunteers and practices spread across the state – this will take us some time, but we are doing all that we possibly can to set this up quickly. We plan to have our safety procedures and protocols in place by June 1.

We know this is a challenging time for our athletes and being able to connect in person with others is crucial for their mental health. But, with people's lives and health at stake, there is no room for error in our return to official activities.

**Q: Are you allowing *any* in-person practices or gatherings, like walking clubs, etc.?**

At this time, Special Olympics Washington is not holding any in-person practices or gatherings of any kind.

**Q: When will you announce the status of Summer season? Will there be an in-person State Summer Games?**

We will have more information on the status of Summer season and the State Summer Games the week of May 3.

**Q: What type of programming will Special Olympics Washington have available in the meantime?**

We are excited to launch the CommUNITY Challenge - a virtual competition where Special Olympics athletes, friends, families, and community members connect and compete in distance traveled and funds raised over a six-week period. Participants will complete a fun and interactive virtual journey that will include weekly pit stops, fitness, health and wellness challenges, training activities and social activities that will culminate in a final mile celebration. Registration will open mid-April.

###