



Dear Special Olympics Washington athletes, volunteers, and community,

I am writing to inform you that Special Olympics Washington has made the difficult decision to cancel our State Summer Games in August. We understand that this decision may come as a disappointment to many, especially to those who were eagerly looking forward to participating in this event. Summer season training and regional competitions for softball, bocce and golf will continue as scheduled.

The decision to cancel Summer Games was taken after much consideration and thought, and we want to be transparent with you about the reason behind this decision. Like many non-profits in this post-pandemic period, Special Olympics Washington is finding it much more challenging to secure resources which includes volunteer support as well as financial support, and we must carefully evaluate our priorities and make difficult choices about where to allocate our resources. We are committed to being good stewards of our resources and the long-term sustainability of our organization is top of mind. We want to continue to serve our community and individuals with IDD for many years to come.

Canceling Summer Games is a difficult decision, but we believe it is necessary at this time. We want to assure you that we are exploring every possible avenue to ensure that we can continue to deliver the high-quality programs and services that our athletes and their families rely on – but we need your help! Volunteers are vital to our organization and now we need them more than ever. As we move forward, we will be focusing on volunteer retention and recruitment so that we can expand our reach and offer more programs and activities for our athletes. Your commitment to keep showing up and bringing others to share the joy that Special Olympics brings to so many will be critical. Please help spread the word by sharing this link with others who may be interested in joining our compassionate army of volunteers bit.ly/VolunteerWithSOWA. We still have 1500 volunteer shifts on Friday and Saturday for the Spring Games, June 9-11 that we would like to fill.

We understand that this news may be disappointing, and we want to express our appreciation for your ongoing support of Special Olympics Washington. Your dedication to our mission has always been and will continue to be vital to our success.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Sincerely,

David Wu
Chief Executive Officer
Special Olympics Washington