



Date: January 28, 2022
To: All SOWI Local Programs
From: Jason Blank, Senior Director of Sports
Re: Basketball Season Update

Dear Special Olympics Wisconsin Local Program Managers,

With the recent spike in COVID-19 cases statewide, all programs have been on hold since December. Since local programs have not had the opportunity to practice, athletes and teams are not prepared for basketball competition. Special Olympics Wisconsin has adjusted the seasons for both Basketball Skills and Team Basketball.

Basketball Skills will no longer have District level competitions. Instead, SOWI will host 2 Basketball Skills State Competitions. Regions 2, 3, 4, and 5 will compete at the Northern State Basketball Skills Competition at Neenah High School and Regions 6, 7, and 8 will compete at the Southern State Basketball Skills Competition at Mukwonago High School. Both Competitions will take place on March 19th and will have a Registration Deadline of March 7th. There will also be a State In-Practice Competition that will conclude on March 20th and will have a Registration Deadline of March 7th. Level 1, 2, and 3 Basketball Skills will be offered at both the In-Person Competition and In-Practice Competitions.

Team Basketball will not be offered at the Regional or Sectional level. There will be a State 3v3 Basketball Tournament held at UW-Oshkosh on April 9th. Both Traditional 3v3 and Unified 3v3 will be offered. The Registration Deadline will be March 21st. Qualifying games will not be required for this tournament but are encouraged if they can safely be played prior to the Registration Deadline. In order to assist in planning for this tournament, please fill out the Intent to Play form by February 28th here: <https://forms.gle/YHfi6r3hjcmvY7am8>.

Athletes will choose to participate in one of the three competition offerings: In-Practice Basketball Skills, In-Person Basketball Skills, or In-Person 3v3. In order to comply with the SOI Return to Play protocols, all individuals that compete at the in-person competitions will be required to submit a proof of COVID-19 vaccination. The deadline for submitting a proof of vaccination has been extended to February 28th. Proof of vaccinations should be uploaded through this secure website: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/e59d88d333cb430e965d55d1ff406b36>. We understand the issue of vaccines is a personal choice however, right now this is the only option to offer in-person basketball competitions.

SOWI is continuing to monitor COVID-19 case numbers and know that programs are still not able to practice. The numbers are still high statewide but are trending downward. SOWI will meet again on February 28th and if the majority of programs across the state have still not had the opportunity to practice, a decision will be made on whether the season will need to be cancelled.

Please contact us at covid@specialolympicswisconsin.org with any questions.