

7/12/2021- Return to Play/Practice Update:

With the increase in vaccination rates we have made some changes to our return to play guidelines highlighted below. With athlete safety as our top priority, we want to ensure that athletes have a full season to train prior to competing in competition. Below will detail out our plans as of 6/18/2021.

Once all covid-19 education team requirements are met and the coach receives state office approval, athletes may continue practice/training/competition in the following sports in-person: Athletics (track (Running events: 100m, 200m, 400m, 1500m, 3000m) and field events (Shotput, Long Jump, Mini-Jav)) and Bocce. Athletes may begin practice/training but no competition in the following: Athletics (Standing long jump, Softball throw, 25m, 50m and developmental athletics). On July 12<sup>th</sup> athletes may begin practice/training/competition in the following sports in-person: Softball, Soccer, and Golf.

*\* New coaches will begin at step 1. Prior to starting coaches must receive official communication from the state office that they can start.*

*\*As a reminder athletes ages 13-19 are required to obtain a weekly negative test for Covid 19. Any individual with proof of being fully vaccinated will be exempt from weekly testing. Refer to your Area Director for further information.*

#### **Phase 1- update released on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

- **Step 1** – Under each coach no more than **16** athletes practicing in one location at one time
  - **All coaches must attend and complete the following:**
  - Attend a return to play webinar hosted by SOMI staff on pre-determined dates/times
  - Notify Field Service: What sport starting, submit coaches contact information, list of athletes returning
  - Submit Covid-19 Code of Conduct for coach(es) and athletes
  - Take SOI online trainings
  - Be cleared by Field service before first gathering/practice
  - Begin practice and submit weekly sign in sheets
  - **All Chaperones/volunteers are required to sign the code of conduct and complete the SOI trainings.**
- **Reminder**
  - **Areas may host local competition following strict adherence to the following guidelines:**
    - **No more than 50 total individual present**
    - **Must follow all masking and social distancing protocols**
  - **Regional events/gatherings need to be approved/cleared by Field service prior to date of the event**
  - **Athletes are required to attend a 8 weeks of training prior to a State Culminating event.**
  - **Subject to change based on State of Michigan and SOMI guidance.**



## Forms/Trainings:

- Return to Activities: <https://learn.specialolympics.org/Default.aspx?ClientId=1>
- Coronavirus Outbreak: What you need to know: <https://learn.specialolympics.org/>
- Sign in Sheet: <https://www.somi.org/sites/default/files/resources/SOMI%20Practice%20Sign-In%20Sheet.pdf>
- Covid-19 Code of Conduct: <https://powerforms.docusign.net/41ed40b0-e2d3-4580-a459-4694e7d95a42?env=na2&acct=c4907068-448c-47f5-974c-8b12f50d9d83&accountId=c4907068-448c-47f5-974c-8b12f50d9d83>

Head Coaches Need the following completed and file prior with State office prior to start of any practices:

- Attend prearranged webinars
- Return to Activities: <https://learn.specialolympics.org/Default.aspx?ClientId=1>
- Coronavirus Outbreak: What you need to know: <https://learn.specialolympics.org/>
- Covid-19 Code of Conduct: <https://powerforms.docusign.net/41ed40b0-e2d3-4580-a459-4694e7d95a42?env=na2&acct=c4907068-448c-47f5-974c-8b12f50d9d83&accountId=c4907068-448c-47f5-974c-8b12f50d9d83>
- Pre-season completed Sign in Sheet as well as submit each week after practice: <https://www.somi.org/sites/default/files/resources/SOMI%20Practice%20Sign-In%20Sheet.pdf>

Volunteer/Chaperone Need the following completed and on file with State office prior to start of any practices:

- Return to Activities: <https://learn.specialolympics.org/Default.aspx?ClientId=1>
- Coronavirus Outbreak: What you need to know: <https://learn.specialolympics.org/>
- Covid-19 Code of Conduct: <https://powerforms.docusign.net/5e58efcd-92ef-446e-a9a4-f45671dd6e95?env=na2&acct=c4907068-448c-47f5-974c-8b12f50d9d83>

\*All other coach/volunteer requirements apply, see SOMI.org for additional information.

\*Subject to State of Michigan and Department of Health and Human Services guidelines and restrictions

\*In the event the State of Michigan Updates Restrictions, SOMI will assess those changes and follow up with all areas to ensure we are following State of Michigan guidelines.

\*In the event a Facility has safety requirements different that SOMI's, teams should default to those safety requirements (i.e. SOMI may not require a mask, however if the venue does require masks then Participants should wear a mask.)