

COVID-19 update: Suspending in-person competitions through 2020

Tim Schuster, SOMO Sports Director <communications@somo.org>

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To: Brandon Schatsiek <Schatsiek@somo.org>

Special Olympics
Missouri



SOMO athletes, coaches, and parents,

With the rise and increased positivity rates of COVID cases in Missouri, **we are suspending all-in person competitions until 2021.**

Your area program staff is currently looking at potential dates to make up the remaining 2020 competitions some time in 2021, so please contact them with any questions regarding rescheduling of those events.

In the meantime, we are currently putting the final plans together to launch our new Esports program after the first of the year, as well as introducing pickleball as a sport with a Pickleball Invitational scheduled for March at the Training for Life Campus in Jefferson City.

We want to remind you as well that we are NOT training for basketball at this current time; basketball season won't begin until late 2021.

We feel it is in the best interest of all those involved in these remaining events, that we take this action to suspend all in-person competitions until 2021. We also would recommend that teams **STRONGLY** consider moving to a plan that involves at-home training and exercise programs.

There are a lot of recordings of past [#SOMOatHome sessions](#) and some [Virtual Sports Camp lessons](#) that you and your athletes could recreate at home. Please continue to stay safe by practicing social distancing and wearing your mask as we move into the holiday season.

Thank you again for your diligence and dedication to SOMO and its mission.

Tim Schuster

Schuster@somo.org

Director of Sports and Training

Special Olympics Missouri

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