



Date: March 9, 2020

To: SOAZ athletes, volunteers, families, and friends

From: Jamie Heckerman, CEO

Subject: Cancellation of 2020 State Basketball & Cheer

It is with a heavy heart that Special Olympics Arizona (SOAZ) must cancel the 2020 State Basketball & Cheer Competition. We will not be rescheduling this event. Your health and safety are top priority, as well as the health and safety of the entire Special Olympics Arizona community. We have been monitoring updates on the Coronavirus very closely via the CDC, WHO, and local authorities. After several conversations with public health officials from our local state department, we have been advised that the nature of basketball as a contact sport, the close indoor quarters, people traveling across the state to a location with confirmed cases, could lead to an increased risk for the spread of airborne illness.

[Please refer to this page of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention website for all tips](#) or review the attached FAQ document from the [Maricopa County Department of Health](#). If you do not feel well, please stay at home. Please do not attend any Special Olympics Arizona events, including sports practices, competitions, fundraisers, etc. Wash your hands often, use hand sanitizer, avoid high-fives, avoid handshakes, and avoid contact with your face.

At this time, we plan on hosting all Special Olympics Arizona events other than State Basketball & Cheer as scheduled. We are continuing to monitor the situation on a day-by-day basis & we are consulting with public health officials from our local state department for further direction. We will provide ongoing updates as more information becomes available.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to ensure the safety of our athletes and all constituents within the SOAZ community.

Stay safe,

Jamie Heckerman
President & CEO
Special Olympics Arizona