

Sport-Specific Protocol: Bowling

Status: Return to Competition
Last Updated: August 11th, 2020

Special Olympics



This document is specific to the sport of bowling and is supplemental to the general *Return to Activities Protocol*. It is imperative that bowling programs adhere to any protocol outlined below or in the general *Return to Activities Protocol*. If your facility has rules in place that are stricter than those provided by Special Olympics, those local rules are to be used.

BEFORE PARTICIPANT ARRIVAL

- Ensure venue is disinfected, especially restrooms and high traffic and high touch areas, including scoring control panels.
- Assign lanes to participants ahead of time. Limit to no more than 6 participants per pair of lanes. (If the facility has stricter guidelines, follow those guidelines)
- Designate a space for each player to put their shoes and gear to ensure it does not come into contact with another player's gear. (If space is limited, provide plastic bags (trash bags or grocery bags) for participants to put their shoes/gear in).
- If your bowling alley does not have automated scoring, distribute scorecards and pencils to each pair of lanes to reduce congestion in operations area. The person distributing scorecards and pencils should utilize proper PPE and sanitation measures.
- Collect *COVID-19 Code of Conduct* from all attendees (players, screeners, county management, family, etc.).

PARTICIPANT CHECK-IN

- Check-in area must be setup so that social distancing can be maintained.
- Check-in must be done prior to participants going to their lanes or getting their shoes or selecting balls.
- *Athlete Medical Forms* must be checked as usual.
- Check that each participant has a *COVID-19 Code of Conduct* on-site.
- Must follow the "Onsite Screening Protocol for COVID-19" as outlined in the *Return to Activities Protocol*.
- Collect *COVID-19 Code of Conduct* from all attendees (players, screeners, county management, family, etc.).

BEFORE PRACTICE OR COMPETITION

- Meals are strongly discouraged. If a participant does order food from concessions, only individual meals are allowed; NO SHARED FOOD (NO PIZZA FOR GROUPS, individual pizza or pizza by the slice is acceptable). Food preparation and serving must be done by the caterer or facility run concessions. Food must be distributed by a concessions provided person. Napkins and utensils must be provided by the concessions and distributed individually to each participant. No buffets or banquet style meals are permitted.
- Food must be consumed away from the competition area, and only where social distancing of 6 feet can be maintained at all times.
- Individuals must sanitize their hands prior to and after consuming any food or drink.
- Make regular announcements to reinforce the importance of PPE, hygiene, and social distancing.
- Grouping up should be discouraged as much as possible.

DURING GAMEPLAY

- Masks are required at all times, including while bowling.
- You may distribute water provided:
 - The person distributing the water is utilizing PPE and proper sanitation procedures.
 - The water is in a sealed container.
 - One person is handling the water and players are not permitted to reach into the water reservoir.
 - Community water coolers should not be utilized.
- All ramps must be sanitized prior to use; and in between bowlers if shared.
- Participants and volunteers must sanitize their hands AT THE LANE prior to bowling.
- It is highly recommended that participants sanitize their hands regularly throughout the session, especially if they leave the pit/approach area.
- If bowlers share bowling balls or ramps, bowlers should sanitize their hands between use.
- Participants should sanitize their hands immediately after the game concludes.
- Social distancing must be maintained at all times that athletes are outside of the pit/approach area.
- There must be a minimum of 1-pair of lanes between Special Olympics participants and other patrons.
- No high fives, handshakes, or other direct contact.

AFTER PRACTICE OR COMPETITION

- Bowlers should be encouraged to leave the practice area at the conclusion of practice. Use of restrooms as needed is acceptable.
- Social distancing must be maintained while waiting for rides.

PENALTIES

- Programs that do not adhere to these protocols will be suspended from hosting bowling events for 1 year.
- Bowlers who do not adhere to these protocols may face punishment up to and including suspension from Special Olympics activities.
- Additional punishment may be given to County Management as warranted, on a case by case basis, according to the *Return to Activities Protocol*.