

Sport-Specific Protocol: Basketball

Status: Return to Competition
Last Updated: February 17, 2021

Special Olympics



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

BEFORE PARTICIPANT ARRIVAL

- Ensure venue is disinfected, especially restrooms and high traffic areas, such as doors and entry ways.
- It is highly recommended that all equipment (including basketball) is provided by the team and not each player.
- Sanitize basketballs, cones, or other equipment to be used.
- Designate a space for each player to set their gear that is at least 9 feet from another player's space.
- Collect *COVID-19 Code of Conduct* from all attendees (coaches, volunteers, county management, etc.).

PARTICIPANT CHECK-IN

- Designate one location to enter the facility for check-in and screening.
- Check-in area must be setup so that social distancing can be maintained.
- If possible, check-in area should be setup outside to reduce bottlenecks and close-quarter interactions.
- Make regular announcements to reinforce the importance of PPE, hand hygiene, and social distancing.
- *Athlete Medical Forms* must be on-site and 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, coaches, county management, family, etc.).

LOCKER ROOMS

- Locker room use is strongly discouraged.
- If locker rooms must be used, limit capacity and stagger times that groups are allowed inside.
- Prior to use, coaches should make players aware that all protocols are still in place inside the locker room.

DURING ACTIVITY

- Masks are required at all times, except when participating in on-court activities. Coaches are required to wear a mask at all times.
- Social distancing must be maintained, except when participating in on-court activities.
- Players must maintain social distancing in the team bench area. It is recommended that player seating is spaced out and spots are clearly marked where players may sit.
- No more than two teams are allowed on a single court at the same time.
- It is recommended to utilize a training plan that focuses on fitness and individual skill development to allow as much social distancing as possible.
- Each coach/referee must provide his/her own whistle. Electronic whistles are strongly recommended in lieu of a traditional blown whistle.
- Players must sanitize or wash their hands immediately prior to the practice, scrimmage, or game beginning.

- It is highly recommended that players sanitize their hands regularly throughout practices, scrimmages, or games.
- If a player uses a mouthguard, his/her hands must be sanitized after every touching of the mouthguard.
- Basketballs must be sanitized after scrimmages, games, or other activities where a ball is shared between players.
- Only coaches should setup equipment, and hands should be sanitized prior to equipment setup.
- High fives, handshakes, or greetings using direct contact are NOT permitted.
- Make regular announcements to reinforce the importance of PPE, hand hygiene, and social distancing.

AFTER ACTIVITY

- Players should be encouraged to leave the facility at the conclusion of practices, scrimmages, or games. Use of restrooms as needed is acceptable.
- If multiple teams use the same facility, allow time between practices, scrimmages, or games to sanitize the facility and conduct screening on the arriving team.
- Social distancing must be maintained while waiting for rides. Players waiting for rides should do so outside, weather permitting.
- Sanitize all equipment at the conclusion of practices, scrimmages, or games.

MEALS & WATER

- Meals
 - Meals are strongly discouraged.
 - If a meal will be served, boxed or bagged meals are preferred.
 - Food preparation, packaging, and serving must be done by the caterer or food service staff.
 - Napkins and utensils must be provided and individually distributed to each participant by the caterer or food service staff. Pre-packaged utensils are highly preferred.
 - No buffets or banquet style meals are permitted. Concession stands run by the facility are allowed to serve.
- 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.

PENALTIES

- Programs that do not adhere to these protocols will be suspended from hosting basketball events for 1 year.
- Basketball players 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*.