

Effective 7/1/2021, SOAZ is transitioning into Phase 3 of our Return to Activities action plan. Please note the following important criteria for in-person, sports practices during Phase 3:

SOAZ's Phase 3 Guidelines are as follows:

- **All sport-specific practice guidelines are no longer in effect under Phase 3.** Please be aware that if SOAZ transitions back to Phase 1 or 2, delegations will be required to follow the sport-specific practice guidelines.
- Masks will continue to be mandatory at all INDOOR practices & competitions as follows:
 - Everyone in attendance at any indoor SOAZ practice / competition is required to wear a mask. This mandate applies to all members of our community – athletes, Unified partners, coaches, volunteers, staff, parents / guardians, spectators, etc. Masks must be worn properly, covering both the nose and mouth. *If someone does not have a mask to wear and extras are not available, that individual will not be permitted to enter.*
 - In all indoor settings, HODs, coaches, volunteers, parent/guardians, spectators, etc. are required to wear a mask at all times – no exceptions can be made.
 - SOAZ athletes and Unified partners are required to wear a mask in common areas (ex. restrooms), upon arriving to practice and immediately following the conclusion of practice.
 - SOAZ athletes & Unified partners are encouraged, but not required to wear a mask while actively participating / competing in sports training and competition. However, as soon as a participant is finished with their turn, drill, practice, etc., they are required to put their mask back on immediately.
 - PLEASE NOTE: If a venue/facility requires masks to be worn at all times, athletes & Unified partners must wear a mask while participating/competing in sports.
 - *Anyone who is unable/unwilling to wear a mask due to a medical condition or personal preference is not permitted to participate in any indoor programming until guidelines change.*
 - Please [CLICK HERE](#) to review the official ruling from Special Olympics International
- Masks are no longer required at OUTDOOR practices & competitions but are still strongly recommended for those who are not fully vaccinated or immunocompromised.
- Masks are required during any large group travel to SOAZ competitions and events (ex. Charter busses, 12-passenger vans, etc.).
- Delegations are required to follow any rules and policies put in place by the facilities at which they are practicing or competing.
- All athletes, partners, HODs, coaches and volunteers are **REQUIRED** to complete the **COVID-19 Code of Conduct and Communicable Diseases Waiver** through [DocuSign](#) or hard copy.
- Anyone that is feeling sick or exhibiting any symptoms or sign of illness is **not permitted to attend practice until AFTER symptoms have subsided for at least 72 hours.**
 - Anyone that shows up to practice visibly ill will be sent home. **No exceptions.**
- If an individual tests positive for COVID-19 and has attended an SOAZ event within the last 10 days, HODs and coaches are required to follow the COVID-19 Reporting Protocol to notify SOAZ immediately.
 - The COVID-19 Reporting Protocol can be found in the RTA Guidelines.
- HODs and coaches are **required** to complete the **SOAZ Activities Roster** and **log attendance at every practice.** *In the event of a confirmed COVID-19 exposure, the roster and attendance sheets must be provided to SOAZ for follow up contact tracing within 24 hours.*
 - Completion of the SOAZ Screening Tracking Log (temperature checks and symptom questionnaires) is no longer required at practice.
- SOAZ encourages social distancing whenever possible, but it is not required in Phase 3.

- Spectators are permitted to attend practice but **must remain in an area separate from the field of play** (i.e., sidelines, bleachers, etc.). **At no time are spectators allowed to enter the field of play** and/or interact closely with participants who are not in their immediate family.
- Hand sanitizer must be provided at all practices. **Participants must sanitize their hands upon arriving to practice and after practice has concluded.**
 - *HODs and coaches should contact their area director to request more hand sanitizer as needed.*
- **All sports equipment must be disinfested and sanitized at the end of each practice.**
 - *HODs and coaches should contact their area director to request more disinfectant wipes as needed.*
- Participants are still required to bring their own water bottles. **For the time-being, shared water stations (ex. water jugs) are not permitted.**
- **Athletes and Unified Partners are expected to come to practice dressed in the appropriate attire** (ex. Swimsuits, practice jersey, athletic wear, etc. to avoid gathering in restrooms/locker rooms.

For additional information regarding all other aspects of SOAZ's "Return to Activities" plan as well as guidelines provided by Special Olympics International, please refer to the following resources:

- *Special Olympics Arizona Website* (COVID-19 Section) - <https://specialolympicsarizona.org/covid-19-updates/>
- *Special Olympics International Website* (FAQ section) - <https://resources.specialolympics.org/resources-to-help-during-the-crisis/return-to-activities-during-covid-19/frequently-asked-questions-special-olympics-return-to-activities-covid-19#timeline>