



## **RETURNING TO PLAY** ***Preparing for 2020-2021 Registration***

As September approaches, I wanted to share a note and provide some context about our upcoming registration for 2020-2021. Special Olympics Manitoba staff have been working on protocols and logistics to ensure our clubs/programs can restart in the safest way possible. However, there are realities and circumstances that will influence what we can do:

- Some of the facilities we use have restrictions around the number of people permitted in at one time in order to maintain social distancing (pools & private sport venues).
- Some of the facilities we use are unavailable for use at all because of Provincial restrictions (school gymnasiums).
- Some volunteers and coaches are not comfortable or are unable to return to weekly clubs.

Therefore, some clubs will not be running in-person programs at all and others will be running at a reduced capacity; smaller groups of athletes coming twice or once a month instead of weekly to accommodate everyone. For athletes that are in multiple clubs, we will ask that you prioritize and register for only one in-person club in order to allow others that may no longer have access to in-person participation the opportunity.

I also recognize that some athletes are not comfortable returning, or need to delay returning. Anyone with underlying health conditions that elevate the risk for contracting COVID-19, we strongly encourage contacting a health care provider for clearance and consider virtual/online programming only.

As we move forward, the Provincial Pandemic Response System will guide us in implementing any changes to in-person programming according to the region in which you live. Orange and red levels in your region will mean the suspension of in-person programming.

Registration information will be coming out in September, which will include specific information on the health and safety measures our in-person clubs/programs will be following, as well as what athletes can do to prepare to return.

Be assured, SOM is committed to providing a range of safe club/program options in a variety of ways; health, fitness and leadership focused programs, in addition to sport...through both in-person and virtual/online.

Things will be different and I realize how difficult this is. We are in this together...understanding why, what and how we are moving forward is so important. Therefore, if you have any questions about our SOM returning to play process, don't hesitate to contact me at 204-781-6404 or [jcampbell@specialolympics.mb.ca](mailto:jcampbell@specialolympics.mb.ca).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Campbell".

**Special Olympics Manitoba**

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