

# Special Olympics Ontario – Provincial Games

## FAQ

### **WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?**

For the foreseeable future, Special Olympics Ontario will be working with all of our communities to support them to safely restart the grassroots programs that service athletes with intellectual disabilities while ensuring a sustainable plan for the future.

### **WILL SOO EVER HOST A PROVINCIAL GAMES AGAIN?**

We recognize the important role that competition plays in sport. While the future of large multi-sport Games, and the financial impacts are uncertain, our Provincial Games and Provincial School Championships are still important to us. Our intent is to return to hosting provincial level competitions when finances, and health and safety circumstances allow.

### **THIS YEAR WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR OF THE TWO YEAR ELIGIBILITY FOR WINTER SPORTS. HOW WILL THIS EFFECT THEIR ELIGIBILITY?**

At this time, we are waiving the Two Year Eligibility requirement for all sports that would attend a Provincial Games/Championships in 2023. We will re-evaluate the eligibility criteria each year to ensure a fair and equitable qualification/identification process for Provincial Games once they resume.

### **WHEN WILL PROVINCIAL LEVEL COMPETITIONS RESUME?**

At this time, we do not have date for resuming provincial level competitions. We will continue to monitor the circumstances around the pandemic and make decisions in a responsible and conscientious manner. At that time, we will be able to make the right decision for re-launching the provincial level competitions.

### **I WAS SELECTED TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONTARIO SPRING GAMES IN WATERLOO REGION 2020. WILL I AUTOMATICALLY BE SELECTED FOR THE NEXT SPRING GAMES?**

Given we do not have a date outlined for re-launching our provincial level competitions, we are unable to make any decisions on how the qualifying / identification process will take place for provincial level competitions.

### **WILL THE SAME COMMUNITIES HOST THE PROVINCIAL GAMES/CHAMPIONSHIPS THAT WERE CANCELLED THIS YEAR?**

At this time, we are unable to confirm the hosts for our provincial level competitions, once they resume, but WE have provided first-rite of refusal to the communities of Kitchener-Waterloo, Kingston and Brantford as designated sites based upon their interest and our schedule.

### **WILL WE RESUME THE COMPETITION CYCLE WHERE WE LEFT OFF OR WILL WE SKIP CYCLES?**

With the uncertainty of when we will “return to normal” we are unable to confirm how the Games Cycle will be affected. As SOC has indicated in their announcement, they feel the cycle to the 2023 World Summer Games may be a reality and as a result, we will be working with SOC to ensure a quality competition structure that will feed into that cycle.