

**Attention All Special Olympics South Dakota Delegations:**

**Per the memo below from Mary Davis, CEO, Special Olympics International (SOI), and further conversation with Amie Dugan at SOI, the Special Olympics South Dakota state office has made the decision to CANCEL the State Basketball Tournament in Pierre this weekend, March 14 & 15, 2020.**

**The decision was made with much thought. Due to the heightened risks and vulnerability of people with intellectual disabilities and the elderly we must take every precaution in protecting our athletes and constituents.**

**As per the communication we are suspending all sport training and competition activities and other activations involving our athletes through 31 March 2020. (This does mean all local practices and training will be suspended)**

**More to come. Please call with questions. Thank you.**

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*Memo from Special Olympics International CEO, Mary Davis:*

*Due to recent developments tied to the global spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), including a case tied to a U.S. Special Olympics athlete, and the heightened risks for people with intellectual disabilities and the elderly, Special Olympics Programs worldwide are very strongly advised to suspend all sport training and competition activities and other activations involving our athletes through 31 March 2020, at which time the situation will be reevaluated.*

*Fundraising events that do not include Special Olympics athletes may proceed at the discretion of each Program, so long as Programs carefully assess the risk in collaboration with their local or national health agencies.*

*This decision was carefully made after consulting with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and after reviewing the latest guidance from the World Health Organization.*

*In the coming weeks, we will work with leadership across the Special Olympics movement and continue to monitor and evaluate developments that may impact our athletes, staff and volunteers. We will also work with our communications network to coordinate with local and national health departments, while monitoring traditional media and social media channels.*

***Should you learn of anybody in your SO Program, who may have contracted the virus, please alert your regional president or designated regional point of contact and communication lead immediately.***

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Special Olympics South Dakota