

For Immediate Release

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**Special
Olympics
Wyoming**

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2021 STATE WINTER GAMES TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY

CASPER, WYOMING — Special Olympics Wyoming 2021 State Winter Games have been shifted to a virtual format for Special Olympics athletes around the state. The in-person state event was scheduled to be hosted in Jackson in February 2021. Special Olympics Wyoming looks forward to working with long-time event partners including the Town of Jackson, Teton County School District, and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort for future State Winter Games.

With the recent surge of COVID-19 cases in Wyoming, it has been determined that hosting a large, in-person, overnight event is not in the best health interest of our athletes. Special Olympics Wyoming athletes have various intellectual disabilities which often equates to health risks above and beyond those of the general population. Due to guidance issued through Special Olympics North America regarding overnight stays for multi-day competitions, along with limited capacities in a variety of facilities under current State of Wyoming public health orders, we are unable to host the event safely at this time.

While this is an unfortunate situation for our athletes, organization, and communities, Special Olympics Wyoming will still offer in-person competitions in the form of smaller, area games where current health orders can be observed. Events will be offered around the state in January and February. The results from area games will be compiled to determine medal placements for the 2021 Virtual State Winter Games competition to be held in late February.

At area games, adjustments will be made to ensure the best experience possible for all involved. Physical distancing policies in place by facilities will be followed as well as the recommendations of current public health orders and Special Olympics Inc.

About Special Olympics Wyoming

Special Olympics Wyoming is a non-profit organization providing year-round sports training, athletic competition and other related programs to children and adults with intellectual disabilities; offering them continuing opportunities to realize their potential, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy and friendship. Special Olympics Wyoming changes lives by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, promoting acceptance for all, and fostering communities of understanding and respect.

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