



March 24, 2020

Dear Special Olympics New Jersey Athletes, Families and Supporters,

Our thoughts are with you all during this difficult time and we hope you are doing well.

The health and well-being of our Special Olympics community will always be our top priority as we navigate the uncharted territory that is the Coronavirus outbreak in New Jersey.

This past week, Special Olympics International (SOI) strongly recommended that all Special Olympics programs cancel all in-person training, competitions, events and activities until May 31, 2020. As a result of that recommendation, and when coupled with the restrictions put into place by our state government, we have made the extremely difficult decision to cancel our 2020 Summer Games, June 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> at The College of New Jersey.

As you know, Special Olympics New Jersey (SONJ) relies on thousands of individuals which include volunteers, coaches, family members, law enforcement and sponsors, all who provide support to our athletes. To keep all groups as safe as possible, the cancellation became necessary.

I realize this is extremely disappointing to our athletes and everyone within our organization, but I do ask for your patience and understanding. By making these difficult decisions now, we believe in the near future, that we can get back to doing what we do best, which is providing sports, fitness, health and leadership opportunities to our athletes. In addition, SONJ will continue to be in communication with schools and school districts and, once schools reopen, we can support the resumption of Unified programming as and when it happens.

Because we know that missing out on practices, games, and other social opportunities will only make these coming weeks more difficult, SONJ is committed to providing alternative, remote programming. Over the next few days and weeks, we will roll out several new opportunities to participate in fitness, wellness and training from home.

Together we are an incredibly resilient group of people and we will come out on the other side even stronger, just as we always have.

The SONJ staff will be working remotely for the time being. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact [info@sonj.org](mailto:info@sonj.org) and an appropriate staff member will get back to you.

BE WELL AND STAY SAFE!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather B. Andersen".

Heather B. Andersen  
President & CEO

**Special Olympics New Jersey - GENUINE JERSEY PRIDE**

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