Dear athletes, families, supporters and friends,

As government officials and health care experts across our state, our nation, and the world continue to explore ways to combat the spread of COVID-19, we all must do our best to be a part of the solution.

We know the last several months away from sport and team activities has been difficult for the thousands upon thousands of individuals who are a part of the Special Olympics Kansas community, but each day we are getting closer to being back together.

Previously we announced a suspension of all in-person Special Olympics Kansas activities through June 30. After meeting with local, state, and national leaders we have made the decision to extend this suspension for one more month until August 1, 2020.

During this time our staff and partners will form a task force, led by Special Olympics Kansas Senior Vice President Tim Rehder, to outline steps that need to be taken to keep all athletes, families, supporters and friends safe when we return to play. The task force will consider recommendations from Special Olympics Inc., as well as the CDC and Kansas State Health Department.

We know Special Olympics Kansas athletes are anxious to return to play, and coaches and supporters are looking for guidance on how to keep athletes safe during the return. This guidance will be the top priority for the task force.

In addition, the task force will review sports offered by Special Olympics Kansas to determine which sports are the most conducive to social distancing measures. This may mean that sports offered this fall may not be the traditional sports offered during the fall season.

The task force will also look into personal protective equipment requirements and needs and look into acquiring necessary supplies.

We encourage all athletes, family members, Unified partners, coaches and staff to continue to take part in virtual programs offered on our Facebook page during the next several weeks.

Thank you for being patient and understanding during this unprecedented time of uncertainty and unknown. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

John Lair
Special Olympics Kansas President/CEO

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