

## GUIDANCE IN RELATION TO PARENTS / GUARDIANS / CARERS

Parents/Guardians/Carers have an important role to play to support athletes and the club in making a safe return to activities.

Each will need to know and understand the control measures in place in the club when activities resume. In particular, they will complete or support their athlete to complete the Pre-Return Self Declaration Form. Understanding and monitoring of the symptoms of COVID-19 will be a continuous responsibility in relation to their athlete and for the safety of other athletes and volunteers in the club. Athletes **MUST** stay home if they are sick or showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The club will need to establish if there has been any change in the athlete's general health status or relevant new medical information, since the cessation of club activities in March 2020.

Younger athletes and some adult athletes will need their parents/guardians/carers to spend time with them to educate (explain and outline) on the measures that will be in place and the clubs expectations in relation to the COVID-19 Code of Conduct.

Athletes in Special Olympics are generally more reliant on their parents/guardians/carers or other family members when it comes to getting to and from their activities. Parents/Guardians/Carers may, in the past, have relied on others to assist/share (car-pooling) the transportation of athletes to and from their home/place of residence for club activities. SOI recommends that only individuals from the same home/place of residence travel to and from training together in a car. Car-pooling is not permitted under current guidelines. Observation of physical distancing guidelines are expected during drop off and pick up of athletes and this may mean that some may remain in their vehicle until it is safe to exit.

We advise that clubs engage with parents/guardians/carers to establish if an athlete is in a position to return and to establish if they have any concerns in relation to the re-opening of the club. A follow up communication should include the measures the club is putting in place to manage the safe return for all.

Parents/Guardians/Carers, like volunteers, will have been impacted by the pandemic in different ways and may have different outlooks on how they as an individual move forward. They may be feeling anxious about their athlete returning and/or have questions about how the health and safety measures will be implemented.