



SONC is moving forward with next steps to change the sport season for basketball and softball. This is a change that will stay in place once implemented; it is not temporary and is not related to the current situation with the pandemic. Both the basketball and softball sport development teams were included in this discussion as well as sources for officials to talk through the feasibility of this change.

SONC normally spends at least one program year collecting feedback from local programs before implementing a sport season change. With the unusual circumstances surrounding the pandemic, there is the opportunity to accelerate this change with minimal disruption since competitions at all levels are halted. Feedback is still welcome and SONC will be addressing concerns during this program year.

Why change basketball?

SONC moved basketball into the fall to line up with state-level competition at the Fall Tournament in 2016. This was done to bring basketball back into a full weekend state-level event from the one-day events that were being held.

Basketball naturally falls into the Winter/Spring sports season, and many programs have continued with their training and local competition schedule in this traditional season. Moving basketball into Summer Games will bring basketball back into this season and back in line with the schedule many local programs already have.

Moving basketball into Summer Games will better position SONC to host more teams at the state-level event.

Why change softball?

The heat and summer storms that typically occur during Summer Games have adversely affected the competition regularly. Softball is a sport that is played in a variety of seasons and it has the flexibility to be moved to the fall where the teams will get some relief from the heat of Summer Games.

What about athletes and coaches who have to choose?

There are athletes who will have to decide to play one sport or the other. Athletes are always welcome to train in more than one sport but then select one for state-level consideration. They can also look at rotating and doing one sport in one program year and a different sport the next year. As with any shift in seasons, there will be an inevitable adjustment period.

How do we handle fall training?

Based on the limited training SONC has laid out, local programs are being provided with the modified training plan to do softball training this fall. For local programs that still want to have basketball training this fall, they are welcome to move forward remembering that in-person gatherings must be done outdoors and they are encouraged to work with the SONC sport staff to review modifications.

When will the change to state-level events take place?

Pending facility confirmations, 3-on-3 team and individual skills basketball competition will be held as part of the 2021 SONC Summer Games and softball team and individual skills will be held at the 2021 SONC Fall Tournament. More information will follow as planning continues.