



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Jesse Owens Jog Cancelled For 2020**

*Event supports African American health and wellness along with Nationwide Children's Hospital and the Columbus Urban League*

(Columbus, OH) -- The Jesse Owens Jog, a part of the Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon weekend of events since 2015, will not be held this year due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The 2.62-mile fun run/walk is held in partnership with the Columbus Urban League and the Greater Columbus Sports Commission to focus on enhancing African American health and wellness. It also pays tribute to Owens, an Ohio State legend known to many as the "Buckeye Bullet," who set three world records and tied a fourth in four grueling track and field events in 1935 Big Ten Championships. From there, he became the first American track & field athlete to win four gold medals in a single Olympiad in 1936.

"Over the past five years, this event has built a following in our community and has become a great way for us to encourage and celebrate health and wellness here in Columbus. Last year, more than 500 people participated in the event," said Stephanie Hightower, President and CEO of the Columbus Urban League. "We encourage all our athletes to continue pursuing their fitness goals – which are especially important during this time; and we are looking forward to the time when we can run and walk together safely again."

The race, usually held the Saturday before the Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon, follows a loop route along the Scioto River path in Downtown Columbus. It uses the same Start & Finish used the next day for the 13.1 and 26.2-mile events, which were also cancelled for 2020.

Information and updates regarding a future Jesse Owens Jog will be posted at

[www.jesseowensjog.com](http://www.jesseowensjog.com).

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