



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SPECIAL OLYMPICS PA – PHILADELPHIA TO HOLD THIRD ANNUAL ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL IUS BOCCIE CHAMPIONSHIP AT JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY ON JANUARY 9**

*3 Philadelphia Elementary Schools & 5 Philadelphia Middle Schools to compete in Bocce Championship*

(PHILADELPHIA, PA – January 3, 2018) - The third annual Elementary/Middle School IUS Bocce Championship, hosted by Special Olympics Pennsylvania's Philadelphia local program (SOPA-Philly), is set to occur on Tuesday, January 9, 2018. The Elementary/Middle School IUS Bocce Championship will take place at Jefferson University's Gallagher Recreation Center, located at 4201 Henry Avenue in Philadelphia. Teams will compete between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm.

Elementary schools in attendance will be Juniata Park Academy, Penrose School, and Universal Daroff Charter School. Middle schools in attendance will be Andrew Hamilton, Hill-Freedman World Academy, Middle Years Alternative School, Penrose School, and Universal Daroff Charter School.

This year, Special Olympics PA – Philadelphia welcomes the largest amount of teams to date – a total of fifteen schools. This is also the first year that Jefferson University is hosting the Elementary/Middle School IUS Bocce Championship. Jefferson students and student athletes will serve as volunteers for the day, assisting with set-up, timing, scorekeeping and officiating.

SOPA-Philly invites the public to come watch the transformative power of sports as elementary and middle school students with intellectual disabilities (athletes) and students without intellectual disabilities (partners) take their skills to the championship after training together for months.

**About Special Olympics Pennsylvania**

Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports and 3 emerging sports to nearly 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For more information about our mission, visit our website at [www.specialolympicspa.org](http://www.specialolympicspa.org).

**About Interscholastic Unified Sports (IUS)**

Special Olympics Pennsylvania Interscholastic Unified Sports (IUS) is a fully-inclusive co-ed sports program within schools around Pennsylvania which successfully facilitates social inclusion by bringing together a proportional number of students with and without intellectual disabilities on teams for training and competition.

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**Special Olympics Pennsylvania – Philadelphia**

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Created by Joseph P Kennedy Jr. Foundation. Authorized and accredited by Special Olympics, Inc. for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities.