



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SPECIAL OLYMPICS PA – PHILADELPHIA TO HOLD UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOL BOCCE CHAMPIONSHIP
AT GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ON THURS, JAN 24TH**
13 Philadelphia High Schools to compete in Bocce Championship

(PHILADELPHIA, PA – January 16, 2019) - The Philadelphia Unified Champion School (UCS) Bocce Championship, hosted by Special Olympics Pennsylvania's Philadelphia local program (SOPA-Philly), is set to occur on Thursday, January 24, 2018. The Philadelphia UCS Bocce Championship will take place at George Washington High School at 10175 Bustleton Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19116. Teams will compete between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Athletes and Partners will receive awards following competition based upon the order of finish. The Awards Ceremony is anticipated to begin around 12:45 pm.

High schools in attendance will be Abraham Lincoln High School, Ben Franklin High School, High School for Creative and Performing Arts, George Washington High School, High School for Creative and Performing Arts, George Washington High School, Hill Freedman High School, Kensington High School, Kensington Health Sciences Academy, Northeast High School, Thomas Edison High School, Parkway West High School, School of the Future, South Philadelphia High School and Strawberry Mansion High School. The Philadelphia UCS Bocce Championship is the culminating event after teams have practiced and participated in two previous league play days. This year, Special Olympics PA – Philadelphia welcomes the largest number of teams to date – a total of thirteen schools. Each school is bringing two teams with them to compete in hopes of winning and advancing to the State Unified Bocce Championship.

SOPA-Philly invites the public to come watch the transformative power of sports as high 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.

About Unified Champion Schools (UCS)

Special Olympics Pennsylvania Unified Champion Schools (UCS) 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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