

MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
02/20/2019



NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL TO HOST SPECIAL OLYMPICS PA'S GREATER HARRISBURG UNIFIED BOCCIE CHAMPIONSHIP – FEBRUARY 26TH

WHAT/WHO: Students with and without intellectual disabilities will participate in the Greater Harrisburg Area's Unified Bocce Championships at Northern High School on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. A total of 8 high schools and 10 teams, who are a part of Special Olympics Pennsylvania's Unified Champion Schools program will compete for the chance to advance to the state championship held at the Giant Center in Hershey, PA prior to the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) Boy's and Girl's state basketball championships from March 20 – 21, 2019.

Teams: Big Spring, Boiling Springs, Columbia, East Pennsboro, Halifax, Mechanicsburg Area (2), Northern (2) and Upper Dauphin will play 2 divisions with 5 teams.

WHERE: Northern High School's Gymnasium
653 S. Baltimore Street, Dillsburg, PA 17019

WHEN: Tuesday, February 26, 2019

- 3:00pm School Arrival
- 3:00-3:25pm Practice
- 3:25pm Opening Ceremonies Staging
- 3:30-3:45pm Opening Ceremonies
- 3:50pm Round 1
- 4:25pm Round 2
- 5:00pm Round 3
- 5:40pm Awards
- 6:00pm Championship Play-Off game – *winner division 1 vs. winner division 2*

WHY: Special Olympics Pennsylvania's Unified Champion Schools program is aimed at promoting social inclusion through intentionally planned and implemented activities affecting systems-wide change. With sports as the foundation, Unified Champion Schools follow a three component model: Interscholastic Unified Sports, Youth Leadership and Advocacy, and Whole School Engagement. Interscholastic Unified Sports is a fully-inclusive co-ed high school sports program that brings together a proportional number of students with and without disabilities on teams for training and competition. Whereas, youth leadership, advocacy and whole school engagement promote school climates where students with disabilities feel welcome and are routinely included in, and feel a part of, all activities, opportunities and functions.

Unified Sports® is the one Special Olympics program which helps schools fulfill the requirements of the Department of Education guidance letter reminding schools of the federal law (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) protecting the rights of all students with disabilities to have equal access to athletics activities.

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