

For Immediate Release:

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Special Olympics Pennsylvania to Hold 2nd Annual Figure Skating State Games on March 10, 2018

This Year Marks the Last Time That the Competition Will Be Held As a Standalone Event

(Norristown, PA, February 28, 2018) – More than 40 athletes will participate in the 2018 Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) Figure Skating State Games on March 10th at the York Ice Skating Arena located at 941 Vander Ave. in York, PA. This one day event will host athletes and coaches from York County, Montgomery County, and the states of Delaware and Maryland.

Opening Ceremonies will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will feature an array of speakers to motivate and entertain the athletes including a performance by the White Rose Piquettes ice skating team and the official the lighting of the Olympic Cauldron.

Competition in Skills, Singles, Pairs and Ice Dancing (Singles and Pairs) will begin at 9:30 a.m. Awards will be presented at 4:00 p.m., and the Games will conclude at 5:00 p.m.

This year marks the last time that the Games will be held as a separate event. Starting in March 2019, figure skating competition will be offered as a part of Special Olympics Pennsylvania's new Indoor Winter Games, along with floor hockey, speed skating and bowling, in York County. The Indoor Winter Games will combine events that were previously held on a standalone basis, or as a part of the annual winter or summer games.

The inaugural Indoor Winter Games will be held from March 2-3, 2019, and about 950 athletes, coaches and staff/officials from across Pennsylvania are expected to participate, with competitors ranging from 8 to 80 years old.

The York Expo Center will provide an integral hub. It will host the Opening Ceremony, a dinner and a dance for the athletes, as well as the floor hockey competition. Whereas, both figure skating and speed skating events will take place at the York Ice Arena, and bowling competition will take place at Colony Park Lanes North and Laser Alleys.

"We are extremely excited that we will be returning to the York Ice Arena again next year for not only our figure skating games but also for floor hockey competition as a part of the new Indoor Winter Games," said Gina Reid, SOPA Senior Competition Director.

Volunteers from across the state are welcome and spectators are encouraged to visit Ice Arena to cheer on our athletes. A full schedule of events is attached.

About Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to nearly 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For more information about how you can help "Reveal the Champion Inside" thousands of Special Olympics athletes, visit www.specialolympicspa.org.

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