



## For Immediate Release

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### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA TO HOLD ANNUAL WESTERN FALL SECTIONAL AT SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY**

*More than 400 athletes will compete in full day of competition in 5 sports*

**(Norristown, PA September 17, 2018)** – Over 400 Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) athletes and 200 coaches will travel to Slippery Rock University, located at 1 Morrow Way, in Slippery Rock, PA, for the annual Western Fall Sectional on Sunday, September 23, 2018.

Athletes from the western part of Pennsylvania will compete in team and individual events in five sports including bocce (doubles & Unified Sports® doubles), long distance walking/running (individual and Unified Sports®), powerlifting, soccer (Individual skill, 5v5, and 7v7) and volleyball (team and individual skills). Over 200 area volunteers recruited from the university, regional clubs, organizations, schools and the surrounding community will give of their time to support the day's activities and cheer on the athletes.

The Western Fall Sectional will kick-off with Opening Ceremonies held in the Slippery Rock Aebersold Recreation Center (ARC) Gym A. Competitions will begin at 10:00 a.m. and run until Closing Ceremonies at 4:00 p.m. Powerlifting and volleyball individual and team competitions will be held at the ARC. Long distance running and walking competitions will be held on the Marching Band Field. Bocce will take place at the Morrow Field House, and Soccer competitions will take place on the Intramural Fields.

Athletes will have the opportunity to enjoy Olympic Village activities from 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm at Intramural Fields and the Morrow Field House. Olympic Village offers athletes a variety of fun activities to keep them busy in between competitions. Numerous Slippery Rock student clubs will set up booths and crafts tables, and area businesses will participate.

Athletes will also have the ability to gain an understanding of how healthy habits affect sport performance and everyday life by visiting Healthy Habits interactive education stations. The Healthy Habits program will take place at Morrow Field House, the ARC, and the McFarland Recreational Sports Complex (MAC) from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. and is open to all athletes.

Spectators are welcome to visit any of the competition venues, cheer-on the athletes or volunteer. There is no charge to attend SOPA competitions for athletes, volunteers or spectators. **For a full schedule of the day's events, please [visit our website](#) or contact Wenona Sutton at [wsutton@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:wsutton@specialolympicspa.org).**

#### **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](http://www.specialolympicspa.org).

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