



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**NORTH PENN-MANSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL TO HOST SPECIAL OLYMPICS PA'S
UNIFIED BOCCIE REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP – FEBRUARY 28TH**

(Norristown, PA, February 20, 2019) – Students with and without intellectual disabilities will participate in a Unified Bocce Regional Championship at North Penn-Mansfield Area High School, located at 73 W. Wellsboro Street, in Mansfield, PA on Wednesday, February 28, 2019. The Bocce Championship will begin at 3:00 p.m. in the High School's main gym.

The Championship will feature competition between 3 high school teams, who are a part of Special Olympics Pennsylvania's Unified Champion Schools program. The winning team will 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. The following Bradford and Tioga Counties schools will be represented: North Penn-Liberty High School (1 team), Canton High School (1 team) and North Penn-Mansfield (1 team).

Special Olympics Pennsylvania 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.

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. For more information about how you can help *Reveal the Champion Inside* thousands of Special Olympics athletes, visit our web site at www.specialolympicspa.org.

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