



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Special Olympics Pennsylvania's 11th Annual Paterno Family Beaver Stadium Run Suspended**

**(Norristown PA, March 13, 2020)** – Special Olympics Pennsylvania's 11th annual Paterno Family Beaver Stadium Run will no longer take place on April 19th at Penn State University in light of decisions that were made in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Due to growing concerns surrounding COVID-19, Penn State University and the Big Ten Conference have cancelled all conference and non-conference competitions through the end of the academic year; and, Penn State has suspended all athletically-related activities that include the cancellation of the annual Blue-White football game. These new implemented measures will also suspend the annual Beaver Stadium Run, a 5K race and 2 Mile Family Fun Walk that has become a Blue White Weekend tradition.

Serving a population where many are at a heightened risk (age, compromised immune systems, and/or medically fragile), Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) fully understands the University's decision to place the safety and well-being of its students and employees at the forefront.

As SOPA and its partners navigate this constantly changing environment, it thanks the community for their patience and understanding.

A status update concerning the Beaver Stadium Run will be provided as SOPA continues to monitor and evaluate the situation. For more information about the Paterno Family Beaver Stadium Run, please visit [www.StadiumRun.org](http://www.StadiumRun.org).

#### ***About Special Olympics Pennsylvania***

Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For 50 years, SOPA and its 54 local programs have used the power of sports to transform the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and unite everyone by fostering community and building a more acceptable and civil society. SOPA is much more than a sports organization. Through its Athlete Leadership Programs, athletes assume meaningful leadership roles, influence change within the Special Olympics movement and take on roles as Global Messengers (trained as public speakers for Special Olympics), athlete representatives, coaches, board members and more. SOPA also addresses major challenges facing its athletes including healthcare. Its Healthy Athletes program offers athletes free health screenings in the form of eye, ear, dental and podiatry assessments. Athletes are also taught how to live active lifestyles, eat healthy and more. Additionally, SOPA strives to create a unified world by promoting inclusion, uniting communities, and changing attitude. Through Unified Sports, SOPA brings together individuals with and without intellectual disabilities as equal teammates in training and competition, which promotes respect and acceptance, and facilitates meaningful relationships between people of all abilities. For more information about how you can join "The Inclusion Revolution," visit [www.specialolympicspa.org](http://www.specialolympicspa.org)