



PHILLIES GIVE BACK TO HOST BOCCE AT THE BALLPARK WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS PA ON WEDNESDAY

Unified Bocce Sports Experience Between Special Olympics Athletes and Phillies Front Office Staff

WHAT: On Wednesday, February 6, the Phillie Phanatic will welcome the Unified Champion School Bocce Team from Northeast High School, made up of Special Olympics athletes and athletes without intellectual disabilities called Unified Partners, as they join members of the Phillies front office for a Unified Bocce Tournament. Phillies staff will fill the role of officials and scorekeepers, as well as Unified Partners to form 4 teams of 8. The tournament will feature friendly competition followed by lunch, a behind-the-scenes tour of Citizens Bank Park and giveaways for all participants.

WHERE: **Citizens Bank Park – Hall of Fame Club** One Citizens Bank Way, Philadelphia, PA 19148
Parking is available in Lot P off Darien Street and all media must enter through the Media Entrance off Darien Street.
Media must RSVP to Lauren Testa at ltesta@phillies.com in order to attend.

WHEN: **Wednesday, February 6 @ 10:00 am-1:00 pm**

- 10:00 am Phillie Phanatic Welcomes Special Olympics PA Athletes
- 10:00 am-10:30 am Introduction of Event/Team Assignments & Ice Breakers
- 10:30 am-11:45 am 2 Rounds of Bocce
4 Teams, 2 Courts
Round 2- Winners vs. Winners, Losers vs. Losers
- 11:45 am-12:15 pm Lunch
- 12:15 pm-1:00 pm Behind-the-Scenes Tour of Citizens Bank Park

WHO:

- Unified Champion School Bocce Team from Northeast High School – Approximately 16 athletes, four staff and chaperones.
- Philadelphia Phillies front office members – 20 plus staff participants.
- The Phillie Phanatic

WHY:
Special Olympics [Unified Sports®](http://unifiedsports.org) is a fully inclusive sports program which successfully facilitates social inclusion by bringing together individuals with and without intellectual disabilities as teammates. Special Olympics PA's [Unified Champion Schools](http://unifiedchampionschools.org) program combines Unified Sports, youth leadership, and whole school engagement activities and is transforming the culture and climate in more than 120 schools across the Commonwealth – reducing bullying and promoting respect and acceptance. Unified Sports Experiences pairs individuals and organizations with Special Olympics Pennsylvania athletes for fun, competitive and social interactions.

HOW: Contact the below for more information:

- Wenona Sutton, SOPA Comm. Manager (wsutton@specialolympicspa.org) at 610-630-9450 ext. 219
- Lauren Testa, Phillies Comm. Representative (ltesta@phillies.com) at 856-745-8178
- Day of Event: Michelle Boone, SOPA Senior Sports Director at 267-972-5904 (cell)