



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY TO HOST ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN FALL SECTIONAL *More 150 Athletes Return to In-Person Competition*

**WHAT:** **2021 Western Fall Sectional** – where more than 150 athletes will attend their first in-person competition since March 2020. Athletes will compete in team and individual events in four sports including bocce, long distance walking/running, powerlifting, and soccer.

**WHEN:** **Sunday, September 26th**  
9:15 A.M. Opening Ceremonies  
10:45 A.M. – 5 P.M. Competition & Awards  
12 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. Olympic Village

**WHERE:** **Slippery Rock University**  
1 Morrow Way, in Slippery Rock, PA

**WHO:** More than 150 Special Olympics athletes as well as students and faculty from Slippery Rock University.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE: Masks are required indoors and outdoors, except when actively engaged in sports training and competition. \*\***

**(NORRISTOWN, PA, September 23, 2021)** – More than 150 Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) athletes and 80 coaches will travel to the Slippery Rock University Campus, located at 1 Morrow Way, in Slippery Rock, PA, for the annual Western Fall Sectional on Sunday, September, 2021.

Athletes from the Western part of Pennsylvania will compete in team and individual events in four sports including, long distance walking/running, powerlifting, and soccer. Over 250 area volunteers recruited from the college, regional clubs, organizations, schools and 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 at each competition venue on Slippery Rocks campus at 9:15 a.m. Competitions will begin at 10:45 a.m. and run until 5:00 p.m. Powerlifting and Long distance running and walking competitions will be held at the Abersold Recreation Center (ARC). Bocce will take place at the Morrow Field House, and Soccer competitions will take place at the McFarland Recreational Sports Complex.

Athletes will have the opportunity to enjoy Olympic Village activities from 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm at all



venues. 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 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, who are masked, are welcome to visit any of the competition venues and cheer-on the athletes. There is no charge to attend SOPA competitions for athletes, volunteers or spectators. [Click here](#) to view a schedule of the day's events.

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

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to nearly 16,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For more information about how you can join “The Inclusion Revolution,” visit [www.specialolympicspa.org](http://www.specialolympicspa.org).

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