



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:**

Hailey Fuzak, PR & Marketing Manager, 610-630-9450, ext. 219 or [hfuzak@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:hfuzak@specialolympicspa.org)  
Jessica Kury, Director of Events, Western PA, 724-375-7515, ext. 244 or [jkury@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:jkury@specialolympicspa.org)

### **Special Olympics Pennsylvania's 4th Annual Pittsburgh UNCathlon Postponed**

**(Norristown PA, March 13, 2020)** – Special Olympics Pennsylvania's 4th Annual Pittsburgh UNCathlon will no longer take place on April 18th at the University of Pittsburgh's Cost Sports Center in light of decisions that were made in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Due to growing concerns surrounding COVID-19, the University of Pittsburgh has cancelled face-to-face classes, moved to online classes, and has cancelled or postponed all events that exceed 25 participants or that are considered nonessential. These new implemented measures will postpone the Pittsburgh UNCathlon, a one of a kind team challenge event much like a decathlon featuring 11 events as opposed to 10.

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 its supporters and the community for their patience and understanding as it strives to make the best possible decisions with the safety and well-being of its constituents at the forefront.

SOPA is working to reschedule the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pittsburgh UNCathlon for later this year and status updates will be provided in the coming weeks. For more information about the UNCathlon, please visit <http://www.uncathlon.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)

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