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Special Olympics USA Team Named – Shrewsbury Basketball team going to Abu Dhabi

313 Athletes, Coaches and Staff to Represent USA at Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi

November 2, 2018 – [Marlborough, MA] -- Special Olympics USA is proud to announce that it will send a 313-member delegation to represent the United States at the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019, being held March 14-21, 2019, in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. This delegation includes the basketball team from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts and local coaches in triathlon and golf.

Special Olympics USA, is comprised of 216 athletes, 63 coaches and approximately 34 delegation members who support team operations. Team members will compete in 18 of the 24 sports offered: athletics, basketball, bocce, bowling, cycling, equestrian, football (soccer), golf, gymnastics – artistic, gymnastics – rhythmic, open water swimming, powerlifting, sailing, swimming, table tennis, tennis, triathlon, and volleyball.

15 athletes and coaches in the delegation will represent Special Olympics Massachusetts in basketball, golf and triathlon. The basketball team previously traveled to Seattle, Washington in July 2018 as part of Team Massachusetts for Special Olympics USA Games.

Basketball:

Colin Davidson, Athlete, Northborough

Ryan Dixon, Athlete, Shrewsbury

Zachary Englehart, Athlete, Worcester

Merrill Englehart, Coach, Worcester

Joseph Jamros, Athlete, Shrewsbury

Matt Millett, Athlete, Spencer

Brian Mills, Athlete, Northborough

Bill O'Brien III, Coach, Shrewsbury

William O'Brien IV, Athlete, Shrewsbury

Keith Peabody, Coach, Worcester

Matthew Roy, Athlete, Shrewsbury

Marc Russell, Athlete, Shrewsbury

Josh Sargent, Athlete, Shrewsbury

Golf:

George Kent III, Coach, Hopkinton

Triathlon:

Pat Diskin, Coach, Wrentham



While the team from Massachusetts is traditional, meaning it is comprised completely of athletes with intellectual disabilities, the Special Olympics USA delegation will include Unified teams in basketball, bocce, golf, sailing, soccer, table tennis, tennis, and volleyball.

To learn more about the delegation, please visit www.specialolympicsusa.org for a full team listing, photos and bios.

Special Olympics USA is the national team that represents the United States at the Special Olympics World Summer and Winter Games. Team members compete in an array of the 32 official Special Olympics summer and winter sports, in individual and team formats.

Every two years, the world transcends the boundaries of geography, nationality, political philosophy, gender, age, culture and religion to come together for the Special Olympics World Games. Alternating between summer and winter Games, this event is the flagship event of the Special Olympics movement, which promotes inclusion, equality, and acceptance around the world.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for these athletes to demonstrate their athletic abilities, competing at the highest level on the world stage, and to have life and cultural experiences that will stay with them for the rest of their lives," said Chris Hahn, Head of Delegation for Special Olympics USA. "I encourage every American to cheer on these inspiring athletes, to share in their triumphs and to take pride in knowing that they will represent our country with excellence and honor."

This is expected to be the largest Special Olympics World Games in history. An estimated 7,500 athletes from 176 nations will compete in 24 Olympic-type sports at the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019: athletics, badminton, basketball, beach volleyball, bocce, bowling, cycling, equestrian, football, golf, gymnastics – artistic, gymnastics—rhythmic, handball, judo, kayaking, open water swimming, powerlifting, roller skating, sailing, swimming, table tennis, tennis, triathlon, and volleyball.

ESPN's global television networks and digital media will bring extensive coverage to sports fans and supporters of the Special Olympics movement around the world. As the official broadcast partner of Special Olympics, ESPN's television coverage will be carried across its networks in the U.S. as well as streamed through WatchESPN and the ESPN App.

Bank of America is the Premier Sponsor of Special Olympics USA. Champion is the Official Supplier and Supporter of Special Olympics USA. MTM is Recognition Partner of Special Olympics USA.

To follow Special Olympics USA, visit www.specialolympicsusa.org, and follow on Facebook: www.facebook.com/specialolympicsusa, Twitter: [@specialolyUSA](https://twitter.com/specialolyUSA), and Instagram: [@specialolympicsusa](https://www.instagram.com/specialolympicsusa). Hash Tag: #Cheer4USA

For more information about the Special Olympics Massachusetts delegates please contact Charles Hirsch at Charles.Hirsch@SpecialOlympicsma.org.



About the 2019 Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi (AD2019)

Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi will be the largest sports and humanitarian event in the world in 2019. From March 14 to 21, 7,500 athletes and 3,000 coaches representing more than 176 nations will participate in 24 officially sanctioned Olympic-style sports in venues throughout Abu Dhabi. The first ever Special Olympics World Games to be held in the Middle East and North Africa will also be the most unified Games in the 50-year history of the Special Olympics movement, with inclusion of people of determination with intellectual disabilities in every aspect of the event. Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019 is an integral part of local, national and regional plans to expand opportunities for people of determination in line with Abu Dhabi and the UAE's shared vision of a unified and inclusive society. For more information on Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019, including volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, visit abu Dhabi2019.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Special Olympics Massachusetts:

Special Olympics Massachusetts provides year-round sports training, athletic competition and other related programming for over 12,500 athletes with intellectual disabilities across the state in nearly 300 year-round sporting competitions. Through the power of sport, the movement transforms the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. <http://www.specialolympicsma.org>

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