

**Special
Olympics**
West Virginia



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
MINNESOTA 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

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Team West Virginia Headed to the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games in Minnesota June 19-26, 2026 • Minneapolis & Twin Cities, Minnesota

Hurricane, WV — Special Olympics West Virginia proudly announces the members of Team West Virginia who will represent the Mountain State at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games, a national inclusive sporting event taking place June 19-26, 2026, across Minneapolis and the Twin Cities in Minnesota.

The 2026 Special Olympics USA Games will bring together thousands of athletes, coaches, unified partners and volunteers from all 50 states and the Caribbean to celebrate athletic achievement, inclusion and community. Competing across Olympic-type sports, these athletes will showcase determination, sportsmanship, and the spirit of West Virginia on the national stage.

“Team West Virginia embodies the courage, passion, and commitment that make our Special Olympics community so strong,” said Wendy Miller, Director of Sports & Training for Special Olympics West Virginia. “We are proud to send these remarkable individuals to represent our state and compete among the best athletes in the country.”

Athletics (Track & Field)

- Tasha Carrico (Upshur County)
- Matthew Slone (Raleigh County)
- Reece White (Marion County)
- Jackson Wolfe (Fayette County)
- Coach: Jocelyn Woods (Raleigh County)

Bocce

- Kay Ferrari (Hancock County)
- Brandon Riffle (Raleigh County)
- Bertie Stalnaker (Monongalia County)
- Connor Walker (Raleigh County)
- Coach: Justin Knapp (Boone County)

Bowling

- Peyton Cross (Monongalia County)
- Thomas Nutter (Fayette County)
- Tiana Phillip (Preston County)
- Michael Shumate (Raleigh County)
- Coach: Angie Wilt (Preston County)

Cornhole

- Rodney Bowers (Monongalia County)
- David Braun (Monongalia County)
- Tommy Chapman (Mason County)
- Matteo Filippelli (Hancock County)
- Coach: David Hull (Hancock County)

Golf / Unified Golf

- Ryan Bailey (Raleigh County) – Golf Skills
- Steven Bragg (Fayette County) – Golf Skills
- Harrison Miller (Harrison County) – Unified Golf
- Jeffrey Santos (Harrison County) – Unified Partner
- Coach: Jeff Walls (Harrison County)

Swimming

- Danielle Cottingham (Monongalia County)
- Kristian Rowan (Monongalia County)
- Coach: Lyndsay Ramsey (Monongalia County)

Youth Leadership Experience (YLE)

- Deborah Null (Boone County)
- Adrianna Kirk (Boone County)
- Christina Crigger (Boone County)

Delegation Leadership & Staff

- John Corbett — CEO & Assistant Head of Delegation
- Wendy Miller — Head of Delegation
- Samantha Gardner — Assistant Head of Delegation Support
- Richard Knapp — Team Doctor (Boone County)

About the Special Olympics USA Games:

The Special Olympics USA Games are a premier inclusive athletic event that celebrates athletes of all abilities and highlights the power of sport to transform communities. The 2026 USA Games will unite thousands of athletes, partners, coaches and volunteers from across the country for eight days of competition, friendship and achievement.

About Special Olympics West Virginia:

Special Olympics West Virginia (SOWV) provides year-round sports training and competition for over 4,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, fostering physical fitness, courage, and meaningful inclusion in communities across the state. SOWV offers 18 Olympic-type sports, and hosts 6 state-level events. To learn more or get involved, visit www.sowv.org

For more information, contact:

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