



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact Alexandra McMillin: 312-502-7954 | [amcmillin@soill.org](mailto:amcmillin@soill.org)

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS ATHLETES TO COMPETE IN STATE TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

**NORMAL, IL. – August 17-18, 2018** - More than 150 athletes, coaches, and Unified Partners will compete in the Special Olympics Illinois State Tennis Tournament on Saturday, August 17 and Sunday, August 18. The competition is hosted at the Evergreen Racquet Club in Bloomington, Illinois. The State Tennis Tournament is one of nine Special Olympics Illinois State competitions held each year.

State Tennis is the final competition for those participating in tennis, unified tennis, and tennis individual skills. Athletes have the opportunity to compete in short court singles & doubles match play, traditional singles, doubles, and unified doubles match play competitions. Athletes can compete in either match play or individual skills.

Tentative Competition Times

- Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sunday, 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Outback Steakhouse will generously be providing lunch for all athletes, coaches, Unified Partners, and volunteers on Saturday. The tournament is filled with tough competition and comradery, as well as great sportsmanship.

Special Olympics Illinois will hold an Opening Ceremony as part of the Olympic tradition at 8:00 a.m. at Evergreen Racquet Club. The Opening Ceremony will include a Parade of Athletes, the National Anthem, the Athlete Oath and a Torch Run.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Casey's General Store, Knights of Columbus, Law Enforcement Torch Run and United Airlines are all Official Partners of Special Olympics Illinois.

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit organization offering year-round training and competition in 18 sports for more than 23,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities and over 17,000 Young Athletes ages 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics transforms the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, allowing them to realize their full potential in sports and in life. Special Olympics programs enhance physical fitness, motor skills, self-confidence, social skills and encourage family and community support. If you are interested in learning more about Special Olympics Illinois, volunteering or providing financial support to help make Special Olympics programs possible, contact your local Special Olympics agency, call 800-394-0562 or visit our website at [www.soill.org](http://www.soill.org). Follow Special Olympics Illinois on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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**Special Olympics Illinois**

605 E. Willow St., Normal, IL 61761

Tel 309-888-2551 Fax 309-888-2570

[www.soill.org](http://www.soill.org)

*Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities*