



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS ATHLETES TO COMPETE IN STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT  
ISU & IWU TO HOST OVER 1,800 ATHLETES**

**BLOOMINGTON, IL.** – Friday, March 13 through Sunday, March 15, Special Olympics Illinois athletes will compete in the 2020 State Basketball Tournament. The tournament will take place at Horton Field House of Illinois State University (ISU) & the Shirk Center of Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU).

Over 1,800 Special Olympics Illinois athletes and 150 teams from across the state will compete in the 2020 State Basketball Tournament.

**Tentative Competition Times:**

- *Friday, March 13 – 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.*
- *Saturday, March 14 – 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*
- *Sunday, March 15 – 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

To compete in the tournament, athletes must have trained for at least eight weeks. Senior/Male and High School teams qualified through one of eight regional tournaments in the state. All teams will play at least two games, and the tournament will be played according to IHSA rules.

The Opening Ceremony will take place in Horton Fieldhouse on Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

Young Athletes have the opportunity to participate in basketball skills on Saturday, March 14 at Illinois State University's Horton Field House. To take part in the transitional exhibitions Young Athletes must have a valid **Medical Application**. For more information, please email [youngathletes@soill.org](mailto:youngathletes@soill.org).

The State Basketball Tournament Sponsors are Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Casey's General Store, Jewel-Osco, Knights of Columbus, Law Enforcement Torch Run, and United Airlines.

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit sports 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. It strives to be a global leader in shaping a culture where people with and without intellectual disabilities are fully integrated into the community by providing year-round opportunities in competitive sports, health education, leadership, and personal development. If you are interested in being a part of Special Olympics Illinois and its vision, contact your local region, 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.

In case of inclement weather, schedule changes or cancellations **check the website here for updates**. Please text "Basketball" to 844-393-0980 to receive State Basketball related text alerts.

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