



Special Olympics
New Jersey

PRESS RELEASE

Contact:
Doreen Pustizzi
Senior Director of Communications
609-896-8000 ext. 274,
dlp@sonj.org

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Special Olympics New Jersey's New Flag Football Program to be Featured at Weekend Event

New sport is supported by local Woodmen of the World lodge out of Glassboro.

LAWRENCEVILLE – On Sunday, October 25, Special Olympics New Jersey (SONJ) will hold its first ever flag football state competition supported by Woodmen of the World and its lodges. The competition is part of the annual Fall Sports Festival, which features five sports and takes place over three days.

New Jersey is among the first states to launch flag football as a Special Olympics sport. Flag football will be featured as an exhibition sport at the 2010 USA Special Olympics National Games in Lincoln, Neb. Currently New Jersey has nine Special Olympics flag football teams from across the state and all will be competing Sunday at the Fall Sports Festival, which is a qualifier for the National Games.



Woodmen of the World is a fraternal organization that conducts volunteer and charitable projects that benefit individuals, families and communities. They have more than 2,000 lodges across the country including one in Glassboro (Lodge 33), which provided all of the equipment used by the SONJ Flag Football teams.

The Fall Sports Festival schedule includes: Golf on Wed., Oct. 22 at Mountain View Golf Course in West Trenton; Cycling on Sat., Oct. 23 at Education Testing Service in Princeton; Equestrian on Sat., Oct. 23 at the Horse Park of New Jersey in Allentown; and Flag Football, Soccer and Volleyball on Sun., Oct. 24 at The Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville.

For more information on Special Olympics New Jersey, visit www.sonj.org.

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Photo from L to R: Anthony Jurik, Woodmen State Manager; Lillian Narvaez, VP of Sports, SONJ; Jeff Baldino, Competition Director, SONJ; Matt Willey, Sports Manager, SONJ; John S. Manna, AVP, Community Outreach for Woodmen; Marc Edenzon, President, SONJ; Woodmen Fraternal Coordinators Phyllis and Roger Mervine; Woodmen Lodge 33 members Don and Barbara DiMattia.

ABOUT SONJ: Special Olympics New Jersey provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.