



NFL to Support Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015

Oakland Raiders, San Diego Chargers and San Francisco 49ers Join League in Enhancing Special Olympics Athletes' Experience in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Calif., (July 23, 2015) – The NFL's California-based franchises, the Oakland Raiders, San Diego Chargers and San Francisco 49ers, have joined the league in supporting the Special Olympics World Games taking place in Los Angeles starting Saturday, July 25.

Raider Nation on Location (RNOL), an interactive fan zone, will be featured on July 26 at UCLA's Wilson Plaza and on July 27, the Raiders will host a free Football Clinic. Both events will take place from 1 – 9 p.m. PDT each day at the Sports Experience Field located in the Athletes Festival. The Raiderettes will participate in festivities by cheering as part of the Special Olympics World Games Cheer for LA program.

Raiders alumni and members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, **MIKE HAYNES** and **JAMES LOFTON** will be distributing medals to Special Olympics athletes on July 27 at the bocce and bowling events. Raiderettes will also be in attendance to cheer on athletes at the bowling event.

The San Francisco 49ers and San Diego Chargers are each contributing to the World Games by assisting the athletes. The 49ers are supporting the Nepalese Delegation and the Chargers the Greek Delegation. The "Support An Athlete" initiative and "Support a Delegation" campaign are part of the LA2015 World Games, helping to pay for the housing, feeding and transportation of athletes once they arrive in Southern California.

"The NFL and our member clubs are honored to support the Special Olympics World Games – an event dedicated to providing opportunities for athletes of all abilities," said NFL senior vice president of social responsibility, Anna Isaacson. "We look forward to celebrating these inspirational athletes from around the world and enhancing their experience in Los Angeles."

The NFL will host a free Football Fan Fest for all World Games attendees and athletes on July 28 and 29 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at UCLA's Wilson Plaza. Featuring PLAY 60 obstacle courses and NFL FLAG clinics, former NFL players including **LUIS CASTILLO** and **JESSE SAPOLU** amongst others will be onsite participating in football skills and drills.

Special Olympics International will host a Unified Football game on July 28 from 4 – 6 p.m. on UCLA's Intramural Field, pairing Special Olympics athletes with World Games honored guests and NFL alumni players. From 6:30 – 8 p.m. on UCLA's North Athletic Field, Special Olympics Southern California will join forces with students from UCLA for a flag football showcase game, with coaching by NFL alumni players. Charger Girls will also be attending and participating in the festivities.

On July 29, from 5 – 6 p.m. on UCLA's North Athletic Field, Arizona's Gilbert Roadrunners will face off in a Special Olympics Unified Sports® flag football scrimmage game hosted by the NFL and Special Olympics Arizona.

Kansas City Chiefs running back, **JAMAAL CHARLES**, Cleveland Browns cornerback, **JOE HADEN**, and Dallas Cowboys linebacker, **KEITH RIVERS**, in addition to alumni players including six-time Pro Bowler **TERRELL OWENS** amongst others, have joined in supporting the World Games. In January, Haden was the first NFL player to be named a Special Olympics Global Ambassador.

The 2015 Special Olympics World Games will be the largest sports and humanitarian event hosted by Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games, with more than 6,500 athletes and 2,000 coaches representing 165 countries, along with 30,000 volunteers and 500,000 spectators in attendance.

To learn more about the Special Olympics 2015 World Games or to support, visit LA2015.org.

About the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015 (LA2015)

With 6,500 athletes and 2,000 coaches representing 165 countries, along with 30,000 volunteers and an anticipated 500,000 spectators, the 2015 Special Olympics World Games - being staged in Los Angeles July 25 - August 2, 2015 - will be the largest sports and humanitarian event anywhere in the world in 2015, and the single biggest event in Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games. The 2015 Special Olympics World Games, with the unparalleled spirit, enthusiasm, teamwork, joy and displays of courage and skill that are hallmarks of all Special Olympics events, will feature 25 Olympic-style sports in venues throughout the Los Angeles region. The Opening Ceremony, to be held July 25, 2015 in the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, site of the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games, is expected to attract 80,000 spectators. On April 30, 2014, LA2015 and ESPN announced a global programming deal that will see ESPN bring coverage of World Games to millions of fans around the world. Honorary Chairs of the Games are President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and California Governor Jerry Brown serving as Honorary Hosts. For more information on the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, including volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.LA2015.org and on social with #ReachUpLA on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LA2015), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/LA2015) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/LA2015).

About Special Olympics

Special Olympics is a global movement that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sports, every day around the world. We empower people with intellectual disabilities to become accepted and valued members of their communities, which leads to a more respectful and inclusive society for all. Using sports as the catalyst and programming around health and education, Special Olympics is fighting inactivity, injustice and intolerance. Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics movement has grown to more than 4.5 million athletes in 170 countries. With the support of more than 1.4 million coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics delivers 32 Olympic-type sports and more than 94,000 games and competitions throughout the year. Visit Special Olympics at www.specialolympics.org. Engage with us on: Twitter [@specialolympics](https://twitter.com/specialolympics), [fb.com/specialolympics](https://www.facebook.com/specialolympics), [youtube.com/specialolympicshq](https://www.youtube.com/specialolympicshq), [instagram.com/specialolympics](https://www.instagram.com/specialolympics) and specialolympicsblog.wordpress.com.

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