



Inclusive, inspiring *motionball* fundraiser connects young professionals and Special Olympics athletes

On Saturday, June 7, teams of young professionals will join Special Olympics BC athletes and take to the fields at the Electronic Arts complex in Burnaby in the fun-filled *motionball* Marathon of Sport Vancouver.

Presented by *motionball* organizers and EA Outreach, the Marathon of Sport Vancouver has 18 enthusiastic teams and 32 Special Olympics athletes signed on to participate. Now in its eighth year, this successful event has raised approximately \$290,000 for Special Olympics to date.

Dedicated teams of 10 raise money for Special Olympics BC and the Special Olympics Canada Foundation through pledges before the event. At the Marathon of Sport, they team up with Special Olympics athletes to play a full day of fun matches in six different sports. Teams are awarded prizes for both their point-scoring and fundraising prowess.

In addition to raising funds, the Marathon of Sport creates inspiring relationships and inclusive experiences for the Special Olympics athletes and their teammates. Teammates Stefan Walsh and Jay Barre return to this event year after year, thrilled to reconnect with Special Olympics BC – Vancouver athlete Andrew Bingham with whom they have formed a strong bond.

“I’ve honestly had this incredible relationship with him ever since I met him, and it’s way beyond the fundraising,” Walsh says of Bingham. “I know that’s a part of it, but it’s honestly just spending that day with Andrew and watching him grow over the last six or seven years. It just makes it worth coming back every year.”

“You’re actually seeing where the money you’re raising is going and it’s actually having an incredibly positive impact,” Barre says. “And the other incredible thing about Special Olympics is it just instills really great values in the athletes – everything from teamwork, sportsmanship, self-confidence, and all of those great qualities that will help you in sports and on the field but they’re life lessons that will help these athletes off the field as well.”

Since its inception in 2001, *motionball* has raised more than \$1 million for Special Olympics through their annual events. The Marathon of Sport and July’s Port & Starboard 2.0 brunch are the two fun-filled annual *motionball* events on the Vancouver calendar.

The Marathon of Sport is generously supported by EA Outreach and by *motionball* National Sponsors Molson, AIR MILES a LoyaltyOne Program, Under Armour, Iceberg Vodka, and Notable.

Date: Saturday, June 7

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: EA complex, 4330 Sanderson Way, Burnaby

Watch the Vancouver Marathon of Sport video featuring Stefan Walsh, Jay Barre, and Andrew Bingham: <http://vimeo.com/67248356>

About *motionball* www.motionball.com

motionball is a not-for-profit organization whose mandate is to introduce the next generation of donors, volunteers, and sponsors to the Special Olympics movement through social and sporting events that integrate young professionals with Special Olympics athletes. Visit www.motionball.com for more information or connect on social media: www.facebook.com/motionball and @motionball

About Special Olympics BC www.specialolympics.bc.ca

Special Olympics BC is dedicated to providing individuals with intellectual disabilities opportunities to enrich their lives and celebrate personal achievement through positive sport experiences. In 57 communities around the province, we provide year-round training and competitive opportunities in 18 different sports to more than 4,300 athletes of all ages and abilities, thanks to the dedicated efforts of over 3,300 volunteers. For more information, please visit www.specialolympics.bc.ca. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/specialolympicsbc and Twitter @sobcsociety.

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Media contacts:

Mike McClenahan
Director, Marathon of Sport Vancouver
P: 604.464.0313 x 306
E: mike.mcclenahan@bbd.ca

Megan Grittani-Livingston
Manager, Communications, Special Olympics BC
P: 604-737-3077
E: megan@specialolympics.bc.ca