

# Connecticut & Rhode Island Special Olympics Golf Croquet September 6-7, 2014 Watch Hill, RI



With the number of teams increasing, thanks to the generosity of Ocean House, vendors and volunteers, Special Olympics CT and RI were able to expand their croquet tournament to two days, September 6 and 7, 2014. What better way to highlight Special Olympics “Play Unified” campaign than doubles croquet competition on double-banked courts.

After weeks of practicing together, partners connected one-on-one to form some seriously competitive “unified” teams. The tournament began Saturday with the Rhode Island State Police Honor Guard leading the parade of athletes, accompanied by Kevin Brown, “Red Eagle”, Chairman of the Mohegan Tribal Council, and the lighting of the Olympic Torch.

While competitors enjoyed their lunches and Olympic Town, another group of athletes and partners took to the courts to play in the “Unified Sports Experience”, wearing Gildersleeve Competition shirts in honor and memory of Andy Gildersleeve, who came up with the concept of Special Olympics Unified Croquet. This year Janet Froetscher, Special Olympics CEO (U.S.A.), and Daniel Hostettler, President and Managing Director of Ocean House, also joined with athlete partners to play in the Unified Sports Experience.



Special Olympics players in action

Although this was his first time as Tournament Director for Special Olympics, scheduling for 56 teams plus the Gildersleeve competition worked so well that Stephen Morgan was able to relax with the athletes at Olympic Town.

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Olympic Torch starts the Special Olympics

On Sunday, teams from Connecticut and Rhode Island competed in their first croquet Olympics. Competition, although fierce, was so respectful that at the end of the day Ocean House's croquet fox came out to observe the closing of the tournament.



The Fox



CEO Special Olympics, Janet Froetscher and President SOCT



Stephen Morgan, TD



First Year Players