



NEWSLETTER

October is here, and so is another jam-packed Games newsletter! This month we're serving up all the good stuff.. a reminder on how to lock in your spot at the Family Forum, the latest on Athlete Leadership, and some info on Strong Minds at NSG.



Family Forum



Our families are the backbone of the Games, and the Family Forum is your chance to connect, share, and be part of the conversation.



2.30pm - 4.00pm, Sunday 14 December



University of Canterbury Student Association

REGISTER HERE!

Register soon as places are limited and are running out!

REMINDERS!

Please remember to advise your 2 x athletes and 1 x volunteer to represent your team on stage for the Opening Ceremony
Send to events@specialolympics.org.nz

Reminder that **Bocce & Tenpin Bowling** will have their medal ceremonies at different venues, transport to be provided and advised nearer the time.

Bocce, Sunday 14 December

12.30pm – 1.30pm

University of Canterbury Student Association

Tenpin Bowling, Sunday 14 December

3.00pm – 4.30pm

Te Pae Convention Centre

Kaha's Corner

Hey team, it's Kaha! Each month I get to share a little wisdom (and a little nonsense) with you, so send in your questions and I'll do my best to answer them. And because no corner is complete without a laugh, I've got a joke lined up for you too from one of our very own athletes...



Q: Dear Kaha, what is your favourite colour?

A: Easy... it's red! Bold, bright, and full of energy... just like me when I'm cheering on all our amazing athletes.

Kaha's Joke of the month!

How do you offer a camel a cup of tea?



With one hump... or two, depending on how sweet they like it!

I'm still taking song requests, questions and jokes.. click below to send me a message!

SEND!

NSG Official Merchandise FAQ'S



Q: When will my merch arrive?

A: If you ordered before **4th September** your merch should have arrived at your specified delivery address.

If you ordered **after 4th September, but before 12pm, 2nd October** please collect your merch at the Games Village in Christchurch.

Q: Why am I paying shipping costs if I am collecting in Christchurch?

A: The delivery fee helps cover the cost of packing, sorting, and transporting all merchandise to the National Summer Games in Christchurch, where it will be ready for athletes to collect

Q: Why was my order delayed?

A: We apologise for any delays to merchandise deliveries. Typhoon Ragasa has affected deliveries nationally into New Zealand which has caused a slight delay with shipment into the country.

A gentle reminder that there will only be a very light supply of merch to purchase in Christchurch.

Strong Minds at NSG

We're excited to announce Introduction to Strong Minds workshops for athletes, caregivers, and coaches at this year's National Summer Games.

- 📍 Location: University Students Association Building, Ilam Road (a short walk from Games accommodation)
- 🕒 When: One-hour evening sessions after dinner
- 🎯 Purpose: To introduce Strong Minds ahead of offering full screenings at the next National Summer Games.

Spaces are very limited (under 100 per session), so we're asking Clubs to nominate participants who would benefit most, or who can take what they learn back to their teams as Strong Minds champions.

We'll confirm the programme soon and contact Clubs for nominations. A formal registration link will follow later in October.

Please note, due to high interest, we may not be able to accommodate all requests, thank you in advance for your understanding!



Healthy Athlete Programme reminder

Each Club's National Summer Games contact has been sent a Healthy Athletes schedule with suggested days and times to visit Parakiore.

With teams arriving at different times and sports running varied schedules, these allocations help us reduce queues and make the best use of our clinicians' time.

A big thank you to Clubs who've already shared their preferences! If you haven't confirmed yet, please do so in the next couple of days by emailing haps@specialolympics.org.nz.

Your support helps ensure every athlete gets the best possible Healthy Athletes experience.

Hello from....

Jeanine, your Clinical Director of Healthy Hearing!



Our 'hot-pink' Healthy Hearing team is celebrating 20 years at the Games! From Christchurch 2005 to today, Dr. Jeanine Doherty and her crew have been keeping athletes' ears in top shape.

Read the full article [here!](#)



Athlete Leaders at NSG!

The NSG provides us an opportunity to shine a light on our Athlete Leaders and we are working with the Athlete Input Council (AIC) to identify ways our leaders can be involved and contribute to the Games and will continue to be in touch with Clubs as these develop. A few things to note:

The opportunity for athletes to represent the Clubs at the Opening Ceremony is open to all athletes and is not restricted only to leaders. Clubs can choose who is the most appropriate to represent their club for this occasion and in addition to leaders might consider those who have made a meaningful contribution in other ways.

Athlete leaders who are attending the Games will receive their Athlete Leader T-Shirt which they can choose to wear throughout the Games as they wish.

We will be coming out directly to identify those leaders who would like to sit together at the Games to organise – noting we appreciate many also want to remain with their Teams. Led by the AIC - there will be an Athlete Leadership Forum during the Games to further connect our Leaders – details to come.

We will be back in touch with further opportunities and more comms will be coming regarding Athlete Leadership in 2026. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any queries directly to projects@specialolympics.org.nz

Thank You To Our Supporters