



NEWSLETTER

Monthly News Digest
No.4/May 2025

Main Stories: Special Olympics PNG Youths established new club at UPNG... & 25 volunteers received Badminton coaching training.

Youths established the UPNG SOPNG Students Club

Youths affiliated with Special Olympics Papua New Guinea (SOPNG) have officially launched a new student club at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), marking a significant step toward promoting inclusion and unity on campus. The newly affiliated SOPNG Student Club (SOPNGSC) aims to create an inclusive and unified university environment where students with and without intellectual disabilities can thrive together through sports, leadership opportunities, and social engagement.

This milestone was made possible through the support of the Director of UPNG's Sports and Recreation Office (SARO), Mr. George Hoki, and the Secretary for Student Welfare and Development, Mrs. Roa Kaleva.

The club is currently comprised of over 25 registered UPNG students, all of whom are active volunteers with SOPNG.

Mr. Hoki expressed strong support for the initiative, stating, "I believe this is a positive approach, and I will continue to support it."

The club's core objectives are to:

Provide leadership and volunteer opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience and knowledge in working with individuals with intellectual disabilities,

Promote social inclusion through unified sports and shared events, and

Raise awareness about intellectual disabilities and reduce stigma on campus.

With this new affiliation, UPNG students now have an opportunity to give back to the community through meaningful involvement in SOPNG programs.

The club's presence on campus represents a new chapter of inclusion and service within the university setting.

Special Olympics PNG extends its heartfelt gratitude to Mr. George Hoki and the SARO team for their collaboration and ongoing partnership.

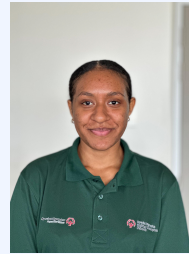
A very special thanks is also extended to Special Olympics Asia Pacific and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan for their generous support in making this initiative a reality.



Youths and UPNG SARO representatives during the launching of the club.

From left: Boniewe Goreo, Eunice Wanjumoe, Mrs Roa Kaleva, Juliannah Nila Tarut, Kevin Kuni, and Mr Joseph Wassem.

UPNG SOPNG Students Club Executive Team



Salome Kiap
President (2025)



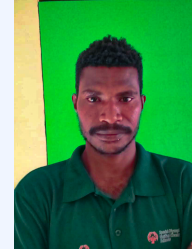
Juliannah Nila Tarut
Vice-President (2025)



Kevin Kuni
Secretary (2025)



Boniewe Goreo
Treasurer (2025)



Moses Kiru
Media Coordinator (2025)



Eunice Wanjumoe
Chairperson (2025)



SOPNG youths who are current UPNG students with SARO Representatives posing for a photo.

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Special Olympics PNG Empowers 25 Educators and Volunteers through Shuttle Time Training

Special Olympics Papua New Guinea united twenty-five passionate educators and community volunteers for an inspiring day of Shuttle Time training on Saturday, May 31.

The training session was delivered in collaboration with Badminton Federation Papua New Guinea (Badminton PNG), with the goal of equipping local coaches to deliver quality sports training in their respective schools and communities.

This capacity-building initiative is part of Special Olympics PNG (SOPNG) broader mission to promote inclusive sports and ensure that athletes with intellectual disabilities receive high-quality coaching.

The training comes ahead of a busy competitive calendar, with local competitions scheduled for July, followed by regional events in September, and other international opportunities on the horizon.

The Shuttle Time training is a vital step in ensuring our coaches are confident and prepared to develop their athletes' skills.

It's not just about playing badminton, it is about building confidence, teamwork, and inclusion through sport.

SOPNG expressed its heartfelt appreciation to Badminton PNG and Badminton Oceania for their invaluable contribution to the training. Gratitude was also extended to the John Guise Stadium Venue Management Team for their ongoing support in making such events possible.

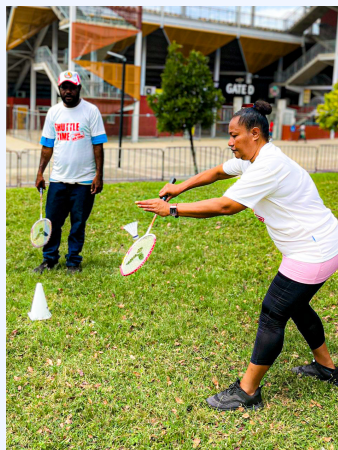
This training marks another significant milestone in SOPNG's efforts to foster inclusive sports and provide continuous development opportunities for its dedicated network of volunteers and educators.



Coaches posing for a group photo.



Coaches participating on an indoor training session .



Coaches participating on an outdoor training session .



Badminton Federation PNG Coach delivering the theory session of the training.