

# Special Olympics Texas Unified Sports®

## Competitions Code of Conduct Form

Special Olympics Unified Sports® was established in the late 1980s. As this program continues to grow it is critical that teams understand and abide by the Special Olympics Unified Sports® rules and that programs and spectators see the correct presentation of Unified Sports® competition. The following must be understood, implemented and adhered to by teams sending athletes and partners to Unified Sports® competitions.

1. Unified Sports® teams shall be made up of athletes with intellectual disabilities [mental retardation], and partners, athletes without intellectual disabilities [mental retardation], whom are similar in age and ability.
2. No player shall be selected for a team who has an ability level that is significantly higher or lower than other players on the team.
3. The composition of Unified Sports® teams shall not include players who, because of their disproportionate ability level to their teammates, are able to dominate play, exclude other teammates from contributing to the success of the team, or present a health and safety risk on the field of play.
4. Special Olympics programs understand that the intent and spirit of Unified Sports® is to have teams that have balanced skill levels so that everyone can safely and meaningfully participate. This is meant to demonstrate the contributions of athletes with intellectual disabilities [mental retardation] and their ability to successfully compete with their peers without intellectual disabilities [mental retardation].

The intent of Unified Sports® is to provide opportunities for Special Olympics athletes to play side by side, at the same skill level with their peer athletes, without intellectual disabilities [mental retardation]. Special Olympics Unified Sports® is designed to provide all athletes with a meaningful opportunity to contribute to the success of the team without accommodation by other members of the team.

Teams not in compliance will be subjected to consequences, including forfeiture of play.

I have read the above memorandum and pledge that I have created our team in accordance with the Special Olympics Unified Sports® program model. I understand the rules, philosophy and intent of this program and pledge to abide by these guiding policies and principles.

---

Signature of Head Coach Unified Sports®

---

Team Name and Sport

---

Signature of Head of Delegation

---

Name of Delegation

NOTE: The head of delegation only needs to submit one copy of the form per event not for each Unified Sports® partner.

