

Unified Interscholastic Sports General Information

Unified Sports® teams are comprised of a proportional number of student-athletes with intellectual disabilities and students without disabilities, who train and compete together on the same team. However, a Unified Sports team should never be comprised solely of individuals with disabilities.

The composition of a Unified Sports team shall include student-athletes with necessary sport-specific skills and shall combine an approximately equal number of Athletes and Unified Partners. A Unified Sports team shall not include student-athletes who dominate play, exclude other teammates from contributing to the success of the team, or present a health and safety risk. By permitting any student-athlete to dominate play, other student athletes' roles and opportunities are greatly limited.

Schools are responsible for providing their own uniforms, transportation and the same logistical support they would any other varsity team at practices and home games.

Schools are responsible for creating their own schedules, Special Olympics Delaware will pay for officials. Track and Field can create their own meets or go along with the regular track team's schedule. All schools can add games to their schedule during the season. SODE will schedule officials after the games have been input into WebSites4Sports.com.

TEAM ROSTERS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Each team shall have an adult non-playing coach responsible for the lineup and conduct of the team during competition. Ideally, there is also at least one adult assistant coach.
2. All participants need to have the appropriate paperwork completed as required by the DIAA and their own school system. ****Valid DIAA Physical is required to participate in Unified Interscholastic Sports****
3. There is no minimum number of athletes or unified partners required to participate in Unified Track and Field (we have had schools with just 1 athlete that trains and competes with the regular team).
4. Game Day Rosters for Flag Football and Basketball shall contain a proportionate number of athletes and Unified partners. The roster must contain a minimum of 5 (3 athletes and 2 Unified partners) and a maximum of 15 (9 athletes and 6 Unified partners) players. Teams may carry unlimited athletes and unified partners on team roster to practice and help out with team.
5. "Unified Athlete" is defined as a student with mild, moderate, or severe intellectual disability as defined in Section 3.0 of 14 DE Admin. Code 922 or a student who has autism. The student must be enrolled at a DIAA Member School.
6. "Unified Partner" is defined as a student who is not identified as a Unified Athlete, is enrolled at a DIAA Member School, and does not appear on any school eligibility report submitted to DIAA for a non-Unified school team in the same sport (no tackle football players).
7. A student-athlete whose functional limitations are based solely on emotional, physical, sensory, or behavioral disability, is not eligible to participate as a Unified Athlete but may be eligible to participate as a Unified Partner.

COACH REQUIREMENTS

1. Responsible for the training and management of the Unified Sports team.
2. Attend the Unified Flag Football Rules Clinic as per DIAA bylaws.
3. Hold a current certification in adult CPR, AED, and first aid as per DIAA bylaws.
4. Complete the NFHS "Concussion in Sports" course online through NFHSlearn.com every two years as per DIAA Bylaws.
5. Coaches of Unified Sports shall complete the NFHS "Unified Sports®" course online through NFHSlearn.com every two years as per DIAA bylaws.

SUPPORT FOR NEW TEAMS

1. We offer basic equipment needed to start each sport
 - **Flag Football**
 - ◆ Ball Bag
 - ◆ 4 Footballs (youth intermediate)
 - ◆ 15 Flag Football Belts (Flag-a-Tag Sonic Boom Flag Belt)
 - ◆ 15 Mouth Guards ^
 - ◆ \$500 Stipend of sport associated costs (school must meet team and coaching requirements to receive stipend) *
 - ◆ All costs for officials *
 - **Basketball**
 - ◆ Ball Bag
 - ◆ 4 Basketballs (size: 28.5) ^
 - ◆ \$500 Stipend for sport associated costs (school must meet team and coaching requirements to receive stipend) *
 - ◆ All costs for officials *
 - **Track and Field**
 - ◆ 6 lb. Shot Put
 - ◆ Baton ^
 - ◆ Measuring Tape ^
 - ◆ Stopwatch ^
 - ◆ \$500 Stipend for sport associated costs (school must meet team and coaching requirements to receive stipend) *
2. A Unified Sports banner for schools that would like to hang one in their athletic facility.
3. Nate Threatts is available to come to your school to provide support setting up program or to provide coaches training.

If you would like to participate in a sport or receive more information, please contact Nate Threatts at nate.threatts@sode.org

^ - we will provide only if needed

* - Stipends and official's costs will be covered for first few seasons, schools will be given at least 2-year notice if they will no longer be provided