

Unified Basketball Observers One Sheet

Unified Sports - MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT

Special Olympics Unified Sports combines people with and without intellectual disabilities on sports teams for training and competition. People with intellectual disabilities are classified as Special Olympics Athletes, and people without intellectual disabilities are classified as Unified Partners. At the World Games level, all Unified Sports are meant to be competitive.

Unified Sports teams need to emphasize the principle of meaningful involvement which ensures every member is presented with opportunities to contribute to their team's performance. Teams should be composed of players who are of similar age and ability levels. This decreases the potential for domination by higher ability teammates. A 2015 World Games Unified Competition Protocol will identify the steps that will be taken to minimize the risk of having poor quality Unified Sports competition at the 2015 World Games.

Sport: Unified Basketball Team

How it works: **Unified Basketball:** Each team must start the game with three athletes and two partners who are physically able to play. If a team cannot comply with the minimum roster size at the start of the game, the team must forfeit. In the event a player becomes unable to play throughout the course of the game due to illness, injury, or disqualification, the team may continue to play with less than five players, as long as the number of partners does not exceed the number of athletes in the lineup.

Role of observers: Unified Sports observers are in place to assist the Competition Management Staff and Sport Technical Delegate. Their role is to be an objective observer of the Unified Sports teams, with an emphasis on watching and noting patterns of meaningful involvement. The observers should never interfere with the competition or confront players, coaches or officials. All findings should be reported to Competition Management Staff.

Examples of Meaningful Involvement NOT being followed:

1. Players consistently have very limited opportunities to handle, pass, shoot and dribble the ball while there is team control.
2. Teams changing the way they play; in particular how individual players are engaged, in medal matches compared to divisioning rounds.
3. Team's activities during warm up, break times, cheering when scored, is this happening as a real team or is there sub-groups of e.g. athletes on one side and partners on other side.
4. Coaches' substitution policy- particular players remaining on the bench most of the time.

What to do if you see any of the above:

- Do not approach the players, coaches or officials
- Continue to observe and determine if this is a pattern of behavior, or an isolated occurrence
- Document what you observe in the notes section
- If you think an unfavorable pattern of behavior is identified, contact the Technical Delegate

Important Notes:

- ✓ Player dominance and meaningful involvement may include or exclude both athletes and partners.

Sport: Unified Basketball Team

Player Name(s)	
Country (if known)	
Shirt Color	
Comments	

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Country (if known)	
Shirt Color	
Comments	

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