



## Unified Table Tennis 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 Table Tennis Doubles

**How it works:** Unified Table Tennis Doubles: Each Unified Table Tennis Doubles team consists of one Special Olympics athlete and one Unified partner.

**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. A player consistently displays superior skills and dominates individually on either the serving or receiving end of the table.
2. One player scores virtually all of the points in a game.
3. Teammates do not communicate with each other during the games.
4. Negative or disparaging comments are made by a player towards his/her teammate or the opposing team's players.

**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 Table Tennis Doubles**

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

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Country (if known)	
Shirt Color	
Comments	

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