Unified Sports Experiences

**Special Olympics Unified Sports® Experiences** (USE) bring together Special Olympics athletes, professional and Olympic athletes, dignitaries and celebrities for participation in a competitive environment. The purpose of this event is to showcase the talents and abilities of Special Olympics athletes, while simultaneously providing an opportunity to raise much-needed funds for Special Olympics Programs.

USE are derived from Unified Sports, a program which promotes social inclusion through shared sport training and competition experiences for individuals with and without intellectual disabilities. USE provide participants a one-day feature event to experience an inclusive competitive event. The hope is that their participation will inspire them and others to support Unified Sports within their communities.

Although USE fall under the category of *Unified Sports Recreation*, these sporting events are similar to Unified Sports in that they are single-day feature competitive events which are structured in accordance with Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.

The following differentiates Unified Sports Experiences from Unified Sports – Competitive, Unified Sports Player Development and Unified Sports Recreation:

1) Teammates are not required to be of similar age or ability.
2) Teammates are not required to train over a specified period of time.
3) There is no advancement above the Program level. However, the Games Organizing Committee may choose to implement this program locally at the site of World or Regional Games.
4) Unified Sports Experiences are fundraising and awareness events, not an official sports program offered by Special Olympics.