

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION PARTNERSHIPS

Readiness Scale

This partnership scale is intended to guide Special Olympics Programs along the continuum of interscholastic partnerships. This was developed from input from State Programs who have established these partnerships. It will assist a State in realizing the level of commitment and resources needed to be successful at these different levels. Each level builds upon the previous levels, for example: level 3 also includes everything listed in the level 1 and level 2 columns. Please note these are generalized examples and these partnerships look different in each state.

	Level 1: Basic endorsement	Level 2: Resource access & awareness building	Level 3: Introduction of Unified Sports®	Level 4: Full Unified Sports® Integration
Examples of Engagement:	Interscholastic Athletic Association (IAA) endorses Special Olympics (SO) as a school sports program, promotes SO / Unified Sports to their constituents	IA gives SO the opportunity to recruit their high school sports officials, IA invites SO coaches to participate in coaches education opportunities, IAA provides access to additional resources such as student-athlete leadership council for awareness building or fundraising	Single Unified Sports league formed (5-10 schools) within a specific school district or existing interscholastic region. Teams are organized through school Athletic Departments and acknowledged as any other team would be.	Unified Sports is written into the by-laws of the IA as a sanctioned school sport or activity. Interscholastic Unified Sports league(s) are offered state-wide
Commitment from SO:	SO CEO supports partnership, all staff is made aware of endorsement and assists with promotional opportunities. A key SO staff is assigned to partnership, commits one hour per week with responsibilities outlined in their job description	SO staff commits 5 hours per week with responsibilities outlined in their job description. Increased partnership marketing. SO provides promotional materials for IAA member schools involved with awareness building. Approx minimum investment = \$5,000 (not including salary)	Staff commits 15+ hours per week. Funding provided for uniforms, equipment and potentially transportation. League-play or culminating tournament coordinated. Approx minimum investment = \$25,000 (inclusive of salary)	Full time staff member or shared full-time staff member with IAA. Unified Sports / Project UNIFY committee established with IAA. Approx minimum annual investment = \$100,000 (inclusive of salary)
Commitment from IA:	IAA Executive Director supports partnership, all staff is made aware of endorsement and assists with promotional opportunities. IAA staff member joins SO Project UNIFY Education Leaders Network (if applicable). Minimal staff member time offered in-kind to support partnership	Sports Officials Manager(s) are aware of SO partnership and gives SO access to recruit their officials (paid or volunteer). IAA shares coach education and professional development opportunities with SO. Partnership & Project UNIFY awareness opportunities promoted to member schools	IAA endorses and promotes as the initial Unified Sports league	IAA ratifies by-laws to include Unified Sports as official school program and promotes as such. IAA commits members to Unified Sports / Project UNIFY committee. Provides partial salary for shared staff member and/or admin support such as office space. Approx Minimum Annual Investment = \$20,000