*Unified Champion Schools*

**[Insert Special Olympics Program Here]**

Thanks to the generous support of His Highness Mohammed Biz Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, Special Olympics is proud to expand Unified Champion Schools globally. This movement forges strong youth engagement and transforms educational systems through Unified Sport, Whole School Engagement, and Inclusive Youth Leadership.

Special Olympics is implementing socially inclusive activities that amplify Special Olympics’ global impact. This model aims to increase access and opportunity to school-based inclusive sports and education programming for people of all abilities. [insert additional information about key initiatives of your local Special Olympics Program]

**What is Unified Champion Schools?**

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® is aimed at promoting social inclusion through intentionally planned and implemented activities affecting systems-wide change. With sports as the foundation, the three-component model offers a unique combination of effective activities that equip young people with tools and training to create sports, classroom, and school climates of acceptance. These are school climates where students with disabilities feel welcome and are routinely included in, and feel a part of, all activities opportunities and functions.

[insert a quote from a local participant, coach, educator, parent, sibling, etc. here]

**Special Olympics [insert Program name here]:**

[insert any important information about your Special Olympics Program here].

See more information about Special Olympics [insert Program name here] online at: [Insert link to Program website here].

**Special Olympics International**

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. This gives these individuals continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community at large.

Insert Program Photo

Insert Program Photo

**What is Unified Sports?**

Special Olympics Unified Sports® is an inclusive sports program that combines an approximately equal number of Special Olympics athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and Unified partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) on teams for training and competition. The principle is simple: by training and playing together, we can create a path to friendship and understanding. By participating in Unified sports, **79%** of Unified sports teammates without intellectual disabilities report an increased understanding of people with intellectual disabilities.