

Unified Bocce 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 Bocce Doubles and Unified Bocce Team

How it works: **Unified Bocce Doubles:** Each Unified Bocce Doubles team consists of one Special Olympics athlete and one Unified partner. In a frame, the Special Olympics athlete delivers two bocce balls and the Unified partner delivers two bocce balls.

Unified Bocce Team: Each Unified Bocce team consists of two Special Olympics athletes and two Unified partners. In a frame, each of the four players delivers one bocce ball.

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. One teammate consistently displays significantly higher ability levels than his/her teammate(s) by scoring virtually all of the points for their team with their bocce balls.
2. The teammates do not interact with each other nor communicate with each other off the court.
3. One or more players consistently serve in the role of "coach" instead of the proper role of being a teammate. They do not allow their teammates to make their own decisions or contribute on their own; rather they tell them what to do.

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 Bocce Doubles and Unified Bocce Team

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

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

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Comments	

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