



Unified Golf 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 Golf Team

How it works: Unified Golf Teams combines one Special Olympics Athlete with one Unified Partner. The players play alternately from the teeing grounds and then alternate strokes until the ball is holed. Example: If Player "A" plays from the tee on the odd-numbered holes, then Player "B" would play from the tee on the even-numbered holes. Only one ball per doubles team is in play on a hole.

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 when Meaningful Involvement may NOT be occurring:

1. One teammate makes all of the game play and strategy decisions for the pair (i.e.; the athlete is never consulted on things such as club selection or how their next shot should be played)
2. A Unified Partner or Caddie provides physical instruction (i.e.; physically helping the athlete line-up a putt)
3. There is an extreme difference in ability between the athlete and the partner
4. The pairs consistently score better on the holes where one of the teammates tees-off

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 below
- Share observations with Competition Management Staff

Important Notes:

- ✓ Player dominance and meaningful involvement may include or exclude both athletes and partners.

Unified Sports Observers Record Sheet

Names of Unified Golf Pair:

Country of origin (if known):

Shirt color:

Please document answers to the following while observing this Unified Pair:

1. How often did both teammates contribute to game play and strategy decisions (i.e.; club selection, discussion of next shot, reading putts) – Circle One:
 - a. All of the time
 - b. Most of the time
 - c. Some of the time
 - d. Rarely
 - e. Never

2. Did the Unified Partner or Caddie ever provide physical (hands-on) instruction to the athlete? (i.e.; physically helping the athlete line-up a putt or address the ball). If yes, please describe details and frequency.

3. What was the ability difference between the athlete and partner? – Circle One:
 - a. Both teammates appear to have an equal ability level
 - b. One teammate was a little more skilled than the other
 - c. One teammate was a lot more skilled than the other

4. Was it obvious that one of the teammates “carried” or “dominated” the team?

5. Did either teammate experience major challenges throughout the round? (i.e.; missing the ball on swings, getting noticeably frustrated, losing interest or focus)

6. Please list any other notable observations of this Unified Golf Pair: