

Unified Tennis 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 Tennis Doubles

How it works: Unified Tennis conducted correctly; instill the principle of meaningful involvement for both athlete and partner. Unified Tennis Doubles pair partners with and without intellectual disabilities to train and compete in the sport of tennis. 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 while leveraging the global platform of the World Games to demonstrate proper Unified Sports Competitive model teams. Player dominance is observed when the following examples are seen as a consistent pattern.

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. A player consistently dominates individually on either the serving or receiving end of the court.
2. Increasing pace of play by a **higher skilled player** directed toward an **lower skilled player** opponent.
3. **higher skilled player** increase pace of serve when only serving to a **lower skilled player**.
4. **higher skilled player** consistently prevent **lower skilled player** from returning the ball by stepping in front of athlete **lower skilled player** to hit the return or taking all the shots preventing **lower skilled player** to play the ball.
5. **higher skilled player** volleys and smash overhead stroke directly toward **lower skilled player**.

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 Tennis Doubles

Level Number	
Division Number	
Match Number	
Unified Doubles Team 1	
Unified Doubles Team 2	
Comments:	

Level Number	
Division Number	
Match Number	
Unified Doubles Team 1	
Unified Doubles Team 2	
Comments:	

Level Number	
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Unified Doubles Team 1	
Unified Doubles Team 2	
Comments:	