

UNIFIED SPORTS® HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



UNIFIED SPORTS® BASICS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED SPORTS® combines students with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team for sports training and competition. Special Olympics Indiana (SOIN) is considered a world leader in the development of these programs having conducted the first-ever pilot test of Unified Sports® in 1989 and it has since instituted competitions in virtually every sport.

- Teams consist of an approximately equal number of students with intellectual disabilities (Unified Student Athletes) and students without intellectual disabilities (Unified Student Partners).
- These distinctions will be for entry purposes only. There will be no identifiable distinction between participants in practice or competition.
- Teams are co-ed.

Vision of Unified Sports®

The IHSAA/SOIN Unified Sports® project is designed to allow high school students with and without intellectual disabilities the opportunity to represent their high school in an IHSAA sanctioned activity by participating on a Unified Sports® team while providing these students with a quality experience of sports training and competition.

Philosophy of Unified Sports®

The focus of IHSAA Unified Sports® is competition (not simply participation). Sports teach many life lessons: to work as a team, to follow rules and to be committed. Through sports we can find shared interests that allow friendships to form. Through the IHSAA/SOIN Unified Sports® program we have an opportunity to make real positive changes in the lives of students with and without disabilities.

We must have high expectations for students with intellectual disabilities because if we do not, we are teaching another generation of students that people with intellectual disabilities can't follow rules or be held accountable and as a result they will not be viable members of their community or society in general.

- Unified Sports® programs shall be administered by each participating member school and follow the requirements per IHSAA Bylaws for eligibility, rules and program administration.
- Unified Sports® tournaments sponsored by the IHSAA shall be administered by the IHSAA staff.
- Unified Sports® tournaments sponsored by SOIN shall be administered by the SOIN staff.

Definition of Unified Sports® Participants:

- Unified Student Athlete: A school may identify a student as a Unified Student Athlete if the student is receiving special education and related services pursuant to an individual education program based on a cognitive, developmental and/or intellectual disability.
- Unified Student Partner: A Unified Student Partner is a student that meets the eligibility criteria outlined in General Eligibility rules 1-20, but is NOT identified by the school as a Unified Student Athlete.

Coaches of Unified Sports®:

- Coaches of IHSAA sponsored sports must complete the training referred to in the IHSAA General Eligibility "rule 3: Coaches" and must have successfully completed the NFHS course on Unified Sports®.
- Coaches of SOIN sponsored sports must be adults designated by the principal that have successfully completed the NFHS course on Unified Sports®.

Forms Required of Unified Sports® Participants:

All participants in Unified Sports® must comply with IHSAA General Eligibility rules 3-10, 3-11 concerning completion of Athletic Physical, Consent, Acknowledgement of Risks and Release Form. Additionally, schools must submit a complete roster of all participants to Special Olympics Indiana.

1ST ANNUAL IHSAA UNIFIED FLAG FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

SCHOOLS: Tournament consists of the first 32 schools that register a varsity team. Sub varsity may compete during regular season.

TEAM SIZE: Tournament teams consist of a maximum of 12 students. Teams may have no more than 3 Unified Student Athletes and 2 Unified Student Partners on the field at a time.

UNIFIED SPORTS® FLAG FOOTBALL BASICS

- Safety is the primary consideration—flag football is a NON-CONTACT sport—stationary “screen blocking,” but no moving blocks; no kick offs or punts; no returns of fumbles or interceptions, etc.
- Games consist of two 20-minute halves (running clock except last minute) with 1 time out per team each half
- Unified Flag Football is played with a #4 Wilson Youth football on a field that is 60 yards by 25 yards
- Game rules (developed by SOIN and modified for use by the IHSAA) are available at IHSAA.org > Schools > Coaches.

DATES: **Practice** may begin July 30; **Regular season**—August 11- September 21; **Sectional Rds. 1 & 2**—Saturday, September 29 (3-5 teams per site, 8 sites); **Sectional Finals**—Saturday, October 6 (2 teams per site, 4 sites); **State Semi-Finals and State Championship**—Saturday, October 13 (4 teams, Indiana Farm Bureau Football Center, 7001 W. 56th Street, Indianapolis)

SCHOOL GRANTS: \$500 of equipment and \$500 monetary grants provided by Special Olympics Indiana for all schools in 2018-19

ADAPTIVE MODIFICATIONS: When athletes or partners require the use of wheelchairs or other mobility assistance devices the school may apply to the IHSAA for special consideration for potential team members who require such assistance. Such requests will go to the Risk & Competition Committee of the IHSAA, in care of the Commissioner.

3RD ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS INDIANA UNIFIED BOCCE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

SCHOOLS: Tournament may be limited to the first 16 schools that register. Additional schools as competition allows.

TEAM SIZE: Total 12--Boys, girls and coed teams with each consisting of 2 Unified Student Athletes and 2 Unified Student Partners.

UNIFIED SPORTS® BOCCE BASICS: Bocce is a sport similar to lawn bowling that can be played by people with a wide range of abilities. A complete set of rules will be provided to all schools. Also check, YouTube: “How to Play Bocce.”

DATE: Saturday, October 20th, 2018, 10:00am- 5:00pm, Carmel High School, Murray Soccer Stadium (field turf).

ENTRY FEE: \$60 for 12-member school team

ADAPTIVE MODIFICATIONS: It is an easy sport and is open to all students. This includes students with significant physical disabilities and/or students who use wheelchairs. Adaptations can be made for those who have visual impairments. They cannot only compete, but they will become valuable members of your school’s team. Competitors may use ramps to launch ball.

2ND ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS INDIANA UNIFIED BOWLING HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

SCHOOLS: Tournament may be limited to the first 46 schools that register. Additional schools &/or exhibitions as competition allows.

TEAM SIZE: Total 15--Boys, girls and coed teams with each consisting of 3 Unified Student Athletes and 2 Unified Student Partners.

UNIFIED SPORTS® BOWLING BASICS: Gross scores, NO HANDICAP SCORING, Baker system (Each team has 5 members. The first bowler rolls the 1st and 6th frames. The second bowler rolls the 2nd and 7th frames, etc.)

DATE: **Saturday, March 16, 2019**, check in 12:00 noon; competition 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Woodland Bowl, Indianapolis.

ENTRY FEE: \$60 for 15-member school team

ADAPTIVE MODIFICATIONS: It is an easy sport and is open to all students. This includes students with significant physical disabilities and/or students who use wheelchairs. They cannot only compete, but they will become valuable members of your school’s team. Wheel chair accessible, competitors may use ramps to launch ball, bumpers will NOT be used.

6TH ANNUAL IHSAA UNIFIED TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

SCHOOLS: Unlimited number of schools may enter varsity teams. Sub varsity meets/events may be held during the regular season.

TEAM SIZE: Tournament teams have a maximum of 12 Unified Students Athletes and 12 Unified Student Partners plus substitutes. Schools must enter an equal number of Athletes and Partners in each event. There is no minimum number of events or competitors in order for a school to enter the tournament. Schools are encouraged to compete in sub varsity/events meets during the regular season.

UNIFIED SPORTS® TRACK & FIELD BASICS

- Tournament events: 100m Dash, 400m Dash, 4 x 100m Relay (Boys'), 4 x 100m Relay (Girls'), Shot Put and Long Jump
- During regular season competitions schools are encouraged to include other traditional IHSAA track & field events
- Participants must have performance standards in a minimum of 2 competitions to be eligible in that event in the tournament
- Competitor maximum events per contest—4 regular season, 2 tournament

DATES: **Practice** may begin March 4; **Regular season**—March 18-May 17; **Sectional**—Saturday, May 18 sites TBD; **Regional**—Saturday, May 25, sites TBD; **State Finals**—Saturday, June 1, 2019, Indiana University.

ADAPTIVE MODIFICATIONS: When athletes or partners require the use of wheelchairs or other mobility assistance devices they may compete in the tournament in the shot put only. Wheelchair competitions may be included during the regular season with permission of the Commissioner if separate from all other competitions (i.e., exclusively wheelchair competition, no participants not in wheelchairs) and 2 lanes are assigned to each competitor.