

UNIFIED SPORTS® HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



IHSAA SPONSORED UNIFIED SPORTS®

FALL 2024—7th ANNUAL IHSAA UNIFIED FLAG FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

MONETARY GRANTS AND EQUIPMENT REIMBURSEMENT

SCHOOL GRANTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN TOURNAMENT:

- Tournament will consist of a maximum of 64 schools.
- Schools fielding a team for the tournament will receive a grant of \$500/year in 2024-25 to be used for Unified Flag Football (presuming the current funding level continues)
- Schools must participate in the tournament to receive this grant
- All grants will be mailed to the schools by the IHSAA after the tournament
- All Unified Flag Football grants will end after school year 2024-25

42 Participating schools in 2024:

- Confirmed intent to participate through communications with Robert Faulkens and/or Brian Avery.

New schools:

- Will be added first come, first served.
- Will be added to the group of schools participating in the 2024 tournament series by communications through Robert Faulkens.
- Will be added until maximum field of 64 is reached; additional schools will be put on a waiting list
- Will also receive a one-time a \$500 equipment reimbursement (must participate in tournament)

*These grants **total \$205,500 and** are paid for by **Special Olympics Indiana (SOIN)**. Grants are made possible thanks to fund raising done by **Unified Champion Schools banner winners** and a federal grant to SOIN. Additionally, SOIN pays for all expenses incurred by the IHSAA in administering the tournament.*

TEAM SIZE: Regular Season: Unlimited. Sub-varsity teams and contests are allowed during regular season.

Tournament: 20 players per game. No Maximum—schools may certify all players on the sectional entry list and there is unlimited substitutions between games (but dress only 20 eligible players per game). **Minimum 5:** three Unified Student Athletes and two Unified Student Partners on the field at all times.

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 kickoffs or punts; no returns of fumbles or interceptions, etc.
- Games consist of two 20-minute halves 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: Sectional—Saturday, October 5, 2024; **Regional**—Saturday, October 12, 2024; **State Championship**—Saturday, October 19, 2024, at Grand Park in Westfield.

SPRING 2025—11th ANNUAL IHSAA UNIFIED TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM SIZE: Regular Season unlimited. Sub-varsity and exhibition heats are allowed during regular season. **Tournament Maximum of 24 participants plus 24 alternates** (12 Unified Students Athletes and 12 Unified Student Partners). Schools must enter an equal number of Athletes and Partners in each event. **Minimum full team 12** (6 Athletes and 6 Partners, each participating in two events, no alternates). **Minimum to enter tournament 2** (1 Athlete and 1 Partner entered in 1 event)—there is no minimum number of events or competitors for a school to enter the tournament.

UNIFIED SPORTS® TRACK & FIELD BASICS

- Tournament events (6): 100m Dash, 400m Dash, 4 x 100m Relay (Boys'), 4 x 100m Relay (Girls'), Shot Put and Long Jump
- **Each participant minimum of 2 regular season competitions in an event** to establish performance standards to be eligible in that event during the IHSAA State Tournament.
- **School minimum number of scheduled regular season competitions 2**--recommended schools schedule 3 or more competitions to account for cancellations and individual competitor absences.
- **Competitor maximum events per contest—4 regular season, 2 during the State tournament**

ADAPTIVE MODIFICATIONS: If participants require the use of wheelchairs or other mobility assistance the school may apply to the IHSAA for special consideration. Such requests will go to the Risk & Competition Committee, in care of the Commissioner. Participants may compete in the Unified Track and Field tournament in the shot put without a waiver.

DATES: **Sectional**—Saturday, May 24, 2025; **Regional**—Saturday, May 31, 2025; **State Finals**—Saturday, June 7, 2025 **site – TBA**

***** SPECIAL OLYMPICS INDIANA (SOIN) SPONSORED UNIFIED SPORTS *****

Private schools, charter schools, small schools, college prep schools—

Think your school can't participate in Unified Sports?

You're **WRONG!** There is a place for **EVERY** school!

Here's how:

If you are an IHSAA member school and do not have enough Unified Student Athletes (students with “intellectual disabilities” as defined by IHSAA By-Laws Rule 100) to field a team, you now have an option. There is an **Open Division** for both Unified Bocce and Unified Bowling.

OPEN DIVISION: Unified Partners must currently be students attending your school who are eligible under IHSAA rules, but the Unified Athletes do not. This could include persons with intellectual disabilities who are;

- middle school students
- alumni
- from another school
- students in your special education coop
- athletes from your local Special Olympics program including adults

You can even combine 2 or more schools into one team!

Contact Mike Hasch mhasch@soindiana.org for assistance or for help in selecting the best option for your school.

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION: Both the partners and the athletes must be current students attending your school that are eligible under IHSAA rules Just like all IHSAA Unified Sports.

SOIN ADAPTIVE MODIFICATIONS: Open to all students including students with significant physical disabilities and/or students who use wheelchairs. Venues are wheelchair accessible and competitors may use ramps to launch the ball in Unified Bocce and Unified Bowling.

FALL 2024—9th ANNUAL SOIN UNIFIED BOCCE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

SCHOOL GRANTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN TOURNAMENT:

- Tournament will consist of a maximum of 32 schools in High School Division and in Open Division
- Schools fielding a team for the tournament will receive a grant of \$300/year in 2024-25 to be used for Unified Bocce (presuming the current funding level continues)
- Schools must participate in the tournament to receive this grant
- All grants will be mailed to the schools by SOIN after the tournament
- All Unified Bocce grants will end after the school year 2024-25

Returning schools:

- Please confirm your intent to participate by completing this [commitment form for 2024](#).

New schools:

- Will be added first come, first served beginning immediately. **Sign up** [HERE](#). Add UBocce rosters [HERE](#).
- Will be added to the list by emailing intention to participate in 2024 tournament to Mike Hasch at SOIN
- Will be added until the maximum field is reached; additional schools will be put on a waiting list
- Will also receive a one-time equipment package including 3 portable courts and 3 sets of Bocce balls, \$500 value (must participate in tournament)
- Schools not reporting to sectional and/or not reporting to state championships if the team qualifies will be expected to return all equipment to SOIN (shipped or delivered) AND will NOT receive \$300 grant

*These grants **total \$54,500 and** are paid for by **Special Olympics Indiana (SOIN)**. Grants are made possible thanks to fund raising done by **Unified Champion Schools banner winners** and a federal grant to SOIN. Additionally, SOIN pays for all expenses incurred in administering the tournament.*

TEAM SIZE: 12 each round--three coed teams of 4 with each consisting of 2 Unified Student Athletes and 2 Unified Student Partners. **No maximum**—unlimited substitutions between rounds. **Minimum 4** (2 athletes and 2 partners)—schools may enter with less than a full team.

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.”

DATES: Sectional, September 21, 2024—Pre-designated sectionals sites (TBD) with up to 8 schools in High School Division/2 schools in Open Division; **State Finals,** Saturday, September 28, 2024, Carmel baseball .

WINTER 2023-24—7th ANNUAL SOIN UNIFIED BOWLING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM SIZE: 15 each round--Boys, girls and coed teams of 5 with each consisting of at least 2 Unified Student Athletes and at least 2 Unified Student Partners. **No maximum**—unlimited substitutions between rounds. **Minimum 5** (at least 2 athletes and at least 2 partners)—schools may enter with less than a full team. Sign up [HERE](#) to participate in Unified Bowling. Add UBowling rosters [HERE](#).

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.)

SOIN ADAPTIVE MODIFICATIONS: Open to all students include including students with significant physical disabilities and/or students who use wheelchairs. Venue are wheelchair accessible and competitors may use ramps to launch the ball. Bumpers will NOT be used in Unified Bowling.

DATES: Sectional, Saturday, March 8, 2-4 Sites TBD; **State Finals,** Saturday, March 15, 2025, Indianapolis.

UNIFIED SPORTS® HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



UNIFIED SPORTS BASICS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED SPORTS combine 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, 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. [Resource Guide for Administering Unified Sports at the HS Interscholastic Level.](#)

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 delay or 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 **IHSAA Unified Sports** must comply with IHSAA General Eligibility rules including completion of all required forms and schools must submit a complete roster to SOIN. All participants in **SOIN Unified Sports** must have either a current IHSAA or SOIN physical form on file at the school.