

UNIFIED TRACK & FIELD

Information Guide

Special
Olympics
Northern California



WHAT IS UNIFIED TRACK & FIELD?

Teammates from the same school compete together as a Unified Pair (Partner & Athlete) on their schools' Track & Field team. In the Sac Joaquin CIF Section, Unified Pairs have the opportunity to compete in all levels of the sport season including league, division, and Masters Meets.

WHAT IS A UNIFIED PAIR?



Unified Partner:

General education student who is eligible for competition



Unified Athlete:

Student receiving *Special Education* services

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HOW CAN I FIND A UNIFIED ATHLETE?

- Use school Principal and Athletic Director as resources
- Special Education OR Special Day Class (Mild/Moderate classes)
- Inclusive P.E. Classes
- School Resources (announcements, website)
- Ask Special Olympics Staff for help

CONTACT:

CIF Sac Joaquin Section
209-334-5900

Special Olympics Staff
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THE IMPACT OF UNIFIED SPORTS:

- ★ Fulfills Section and CIF Mission of Interscholastic athletics, promoting equity, quality, character, and academic development
- ★ 86% of students generally regard participation in the program as a positive turning point in their lives.

COMPETITIONS & SCORING:

Unified Pairs can compete at league, division, and Masters Meets. Unified Pairs compete at an exhibition level and do not contribute to team points.

In 2021-22, we will hold Unified competition in the:

- 100 Meter Dash
- Long Jump
- 4x100 Unified Relay (two Unified Pairs)

**Times/distances will be combined for a total unit time/distance to establish placing*



DEFINITION OF A UNIFIED SPORT ATHLETE:

A Unified Sports Athlete is an individual with intellectual disabilities receiving Special Education services, verified by the site administrator, but also a student who previously, based on their special needs, has not had competitive opportunities to participate in a selected sport. A Unified Sports Athlete works with a Unified Partner to learn the basic skills of the selected sport. The emphasis is the providing of opportunities, not ultimately how well the Unified participants fare in league or section competition. High school students who have had an opportunity to participate in a selected sport without the need for a Unified Partner do not qualify as a Unified Sports Athlete (unless their involvement as a Unified Athlete provides a more meaningful or deeper level of involvement). The CIF Sac Joaquin Section and Special Olympics Northern California trust that administrators and coaches will use proper judgment in viewing who can participate in unified competition and in what capacity, promoting the efforts of the Section and Special Olympics Northern California to promote inclusion of students in high school educational athletics as part of the school community.

DEFINITION OF A UNIFIED PEER PARTNER:

A Unified sport peer partner, is a general education student attending the same school as a Unified Sport Athlete, not receiving Special Education services, is eligible by all CIF and the Sac Joaquin Section rules and regulations and wishes to participate in the Unified Track & Field program. The Peer Partner can be a regular track athlete, limited to four events and not the same event which the peer partner participates with the Unified sport athlete. Peer partners are dedicated to the teaching the skills of the sport as well as committed to the social interaction with the special needs student. It is expected that Unified Athletes and Peer Partners practice and compete together consistently throughout the entire regular and post-season.