

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 CIF San Francisco Section, Unified Pairs have the opportunity to compete at both the frosh/soph and the varsity level, and can advance to the All City Meet.

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 San Francisco Section

415-920-5185

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 any designated dual meet, and can score points in the All City Meet.

In 2022-23, we will hold Unified competition in the:

- 100 Meter Dash
- Long Jump

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

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Definitions

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DEFINITION OF A UNIFIED SPORT ATHLETE:

A Unified Sports Athlete is a student-athlete with intellectual disabilities who typically receive Special Education services, as verified by the site administrator.

A Unified 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 Athlete (unless their involvement as a Unified Athlete provides a more meaningful or deeper level of involvement).

DEFINITION OF A UNIFIED PEER PARTNER:

A Unified Partner is a student-athlete without intellectual disabilities attending the same school as a Unified Athlete, as verified by the site administrator.

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 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 Unified Partners practice and compete together consistently throughout the entire regular and post-season.

**If you need more clarification on who qualifies as a Unified Athlete or Unified Partner, please reach out to your local Special Olympics chapter.*

**It is important to note that the terms used are intended to be used by coaches as an internal descriptor for student-athletes. Student-athlete should refer to themselves and their teammates as just that, teammates. Student-athletes on a Unified Sports team practice and compete together consistently throughout the entire regular season and postseason.*