

# Student Eligibility and Clearance

## AIA Unified Sports Team Roles

- Unified Athlete – a student with an intellectual/developmental disability
- Unified Partner – a student without an intellectual/developmental disability

## Unified Athlete Eligibility

- Any enrolled student with an intellectual disability who meets both the Unified Athlete eligibility statement below and all requirements of the AIA and school district's athletic clearance policy is eligible to participate as a Unified Athlete in AIA Unified Sports.
- Any student who is competing in a Varsity Program (Varsity, JV, Freshman, Exhibition) for any sport may not compete in the same Unified sport.
- A person is considered to have intellectual disabilities for purposes of determining his or her eligibility to participate in Unified Sports® if that person satisfies any one of the following requirements:
  1. The person has been identified by an agency or professional as having intellectual disabilities as determined by their localities; (Ex. Severe Intellectual Disability, Moderate Intellectual Disability, Mild Intellectual Disability, and Autism)  
Or
  2. The person has a cognitive delay, as determined by standardized measures such as intelligent quotient or "IQ" testing or other measures which are generally accepted within the professional community in that accredited program's state as being a reliable measurement of the existence of a cognitive delay.
  3. The person has a "closely related developmental disability" meaning the individual has functional limitations in both general learning (such as IQ) and in adaptive skills (such as in recreation, work, independent living, self-direction, or self-care.)
    - a. \*\*NOTE: Persons whose functional limitations are based solely on physical, behavioral, or emotional disability, or a specific learning or sensory disability, are not eligible to participate as Special Olympics athletes, but may be eligible to participate as a unified partner.

## Unified Partner Eligibility

- Any enrolled student who meets all requirements of the AIA and school district's athletic clearance policy is eligible to participate as a Unified Partner in AIA Unified Sports.
- Any student who is competing in a varsity program (Varsity, JV, Freshman, Exhibition) for any sport may not compete in the same Unified sport.

## AIA Student Athletic Clearance Policy

- All participants in interscholastic activities must be in compliance with all student eligibility rules. The student eligibility rules are enumerated and presented in detail in Article 15 of the AIA Bylaws.

- **Physical Examination Rule (Article 15.7)** states a student shall not be allowed to practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until there is a record of a preparticipation physical examination on file with the school. The preparticipation physical examination forms provided by the AIA include three parts:
  1. Annual Preparticipation Physical Evaluation – To be completed and signed by the parent or legal guardian and the student-athlete. This form must also be signed by the examining medical provider. (Form 15.7-A)
  2. Annual Preparticipation Physical Examination – To be completed and signed by the examining medical provider. (Form 15.7-B)
  3. Annual Preparticipation Acknowledgement – To be completed and signed by parent or guardian and student-athlete. (Form 15.7-C).
- **Parental or Legal Guardian Consent Rule (Article 15.8)** states that parental or legal guardian consent is required before a student can be eligible to practice or compete in interscholastic competition. All students shall have appropriate permission in which the parent or legal guardian authorized participation on file with the school.

### School / District Athletic Clearance Policy

- Unified Athletes and Unified Partners are to be treated and recognized as AIA high school athletes and will be expected to adhere to any and all district/school policies and procedures regarding student athletic participation and clearance.
- If a district has a “Pay to Play” policy, it is the district’s choice to charge a participation fee for AIA Unified Sports.
- Unified Athletes and Unified Partners are subjected to a grade check as defined by their district/ and/or school’s athletic academic eligibility policy.

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: Eligible Athlete: ☐ Eligible Partner: ☐

Person Filling out Form (Print Name): \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\* I have read the Student Eligibility form and understand the requirements to participate in Unified Sports as an Athlete and a Partner. I understand that falsifying eligibility can lead to sanctions on yourself and your program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_