



# Section IX Athletics

Robert Thabet, Executive Director

**Section IX Athletic Council Meeting  
Tuesday, April 21, 2015  
Monroe-Woodbury Education Center at 9:30 a.m.**

1. Call to Order: Bob Thabet
2. Pledge of Allegiance: Bob Thabet
3. Review of Meeting Materials – Jim Osborne
4. Approval of March 10, 2015 Minutes
5. Financial Report: Jim Osborne
6. Election of Officers for July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017 – Tom Cassata
7. Section IX NYSPHSAA Representatives – Roberta Greene and Jim Wolfe
8. NYSPHSAA Report
9. Combining of Teams – Jim Osborne
10. Back from the Leagues
  - a. Section IX Dates and Sites
  - b. NYSPHSAA Ball Adoption
  - c. Boys and Girls Soccer Exceptional Senior Game
  - d. Softball International Tie Breaking Rule
11. Spring Chair Reports:

a. Baseball	T.D. Mills	e. Track & Field	Matthew Hemmer and
b. Boys Golf	Tom Howe		Natasha Kennedy
c. Boys Lacrosse	Bob Slate	f. Girls Golf	Bill Earl
d. Boys Tennis	Urvashi Gupta	g. Girls Lacrosse	Wendy Crandall
	and LuAnn McCarthy	h. Softball	Steve Boucher & Tom Cassata
12. Chair Reports:

a. Girls & Boys Modified Sports	Jeremy Weber & Michelle Henn
b. Safety	Janet Carey
c. Chemical Health	Marco Lanzoni
d. Officials Coordinator	Dennis Burkett
e. Eligibility	Fred Ahart
f. Sportsmanship	Glen Maisch
13. New Business
14. Old Business
15. Adjournment: Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at Mt. St. Mary College at 9:30 a.m.
16. Executive Session Meeting



# [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)

## **Core Courses**

Fundamentals of Coaching

First Aid, Health and Safety for Coaches

## **Free Courses**

A Guide to Acclimatization and Heat Illness Prevention

Coaching Unified Sports®

Concussion in Sports—What You Need to Know

Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment

NCAA Eligibility Center Coaching Education

Sportsmanship

The Role of the Parent in Sports

## **Sport-Specific Courses**

Baseball | Basketball | Boys Lacrosse | Cheer and Dance | Field Hockey | Football

Girls Lacrosse | Golf | Soccer | Softball | Spirit Safety Certification

Track and Field | Volleyball | Wrestling

## **Elective Courses**

Coaching Sports in Middle School | Engaging Effectively with Parents

Strength and Conditioning | Teaching and Modeling Behavior | Teaching Sports Skills

World Book: Learning Pro Courses (4)



## **#NFHSCoachEd**

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!**







# Order, Send and Monitor Courses at NFHSLearn.com

## Order Course

✓ Easy and simple to use

### ELECTIVE COURSE



#### Concussion in Sports - What You Need To Know FREE COURSE!

Sports-related concussion in high school sports can be serious or even life-threatening situations if not managed correctly. National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have teamed up to provide information and resources to help educate coaches, officials, parents and students on the importance of proper concussion recognition and management in high school sports. Mick Koester M.D., ATC, Chair of the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and Director of the Slocum Sports Concussion in Eugene, Oregon takes you through this course. In this course you will understand the impact sports-related concussion can have on your players, how to recognize a suspected concussion, the proper protocols to manage a suspected concussion, and steps to help your player return to play safely after experiencing a concussion.

[COURSE PREVIEW](#)

[ORDER NOW](#)

Please select an option and then click "Continue".

☐ I am ordering a course for myself.

☒ I am ordering one or more courses that I intend to distribute to other people.

[Continue](#)

## Send License

✓ Distribute license(s) as needed



[Courses](#) [Certification](#) [Locker Room](#) [College Credit / CEUs](#) [State Requirements](#) [Coach Search](#) [Help](#)



[My Homepage/Courses](#) [Edit Profile](#) [Receipts](#) [Distribution](#) [Sign Out](#)



#### Course:

» Concussion in Sports - What You Need To Know - IN

#### License Num:

» CONC0536380595

#### Status:

☒ Purchased

#### Progress:

0%

#### Email:

coachedfan@noreply.com

#### First Name:

John

#### Last Name:

Clipboard

[Send License](#)

## Monitor Progress

✓ Monitor course progress from your desktop or mobile device

#### Course:

» Concussion in Sports - What You Need To Know - IN

#### License Num:

» CONC0536380595

#### Status:

☒ Used

#### Progress:

5%

#### Email:

coachedfan@noreply.com

#### First Name:

John

#### Last Name:

Clipboard



jglover@mw.k12.ny.us  
to josbornesection9@gmail.com

Thu, Apr 9 6:28 PM

Fwd: RE: Cross Country Cut- off numbers

Jim,

The NYS cross country committee is in favor of the new proposal.

25% split across classes. This will even things up state wide.

It has no impact on section 9. All schools would stay in same class with this years bed #'s

Joe and I are in favor and recommend that our reps vote in favor.

If you have any questions, feel free to call. I will be at the 4/21 meeting and can speak about it there.

Jim

Here is the breakdown for the cut-off numbers for Cross Country. I have provide you with the current cut-off numbers and what the numbers would be with an even 25% split. I think you and your committee may want to consider that larger schools have more athletes compete than do the smaller schools. Because of this fact you may want to consider not splitting equally. Also please keep in mind that you may want these numbers to be in effect this fall but the executive committee may think differently because of alignments and schedules already being done. If this is not an issue your committees should communicate that with the representatives on the Executive Committee.

Please let me know which direction you want to go in. I will need a recommendation by next Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Thanks.

Current cut-off number:

Class A	911 and up	129 schools	21.79%
Class B	450 - 910	161 schools	27.19%
Class C	260 - 449	155 schools	26.18%
Class D	259 - down	147 schools	24.83%

Even cut-off numbers:

Class A	850 and up	148 schools	25%
Class B	445 - 849	148 schools	25%
Class C	261 - 444	148 schools	25%
Class D	260 and down	148 schools	25%



**New York State Public High School Athletic Association  
Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2015**

**Cross Country Classification Cut-Off Numbers**

☒ Action Item  
☐ Discussion/ Information Item

**Presenter:** Todd Nelson

**Proposal:** To change the current classification cut-off numbers to the proposed classification cut-off numbers (see below)

**Rationale:** It is the Cross Country Committee desire to equal the number of schools in each class participating in the sport of football.

**Budget Impact:** None

**Notes:** The Cross Country Committee would like these changes to take effect for the 2015 Cross Country season.

**Current Numbers:**

<b>Class A</b>	<b>911 and up</b>	<b>129 schools</b>	<b>21.79%</b>
<b>Class B</b>	<b>450 - 910</b>	<b>161 schools</b>	<b>27.19%</b>
<b>Class C</b>	<b>260 – 449</b>	<b>155 schools</b>	<b>26.18%</b>
<b>Class D</b>	<b>259 – down</b>	<b>147 schools</b>	<b>24.83%</b>

**Proposed Numbers:**

<b>Class A</b>	<b>850 and up</b>	<b>148 schools</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Class B</b>	<b>445 – 849</b>	<b>148 schools</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Class C</b>	<b>261 – 444</b>	<b>148 schools</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Class D</b>	<b>260 and down</b>	<b>148 schools</b>	<b>25%</b>



**New York State Public High School Athletic Association  
Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2015**

**Girls Volleyball Classification Cut-Off Numbers**

☒ Action Item  
☐ Discussion/ Information Item

**Presenter:** Todd Nelson

**Proposal:** To change the current classification cut-off numbers to the proposed classification cut-off numbers (see below)

**Rationale:** It is the Girls Volleyball Committee desire to equal the number of schools in each class participating in the sport of girl's volleyball.

**Budget Impact:** None

**Notes:** The recommended change is to take effect in the 2016 volleyball season.

**Current Numbers:**

Class AA – 1040 and up – 84 schools – 13.7%  
Class A – 690 to 1039 – 123 schools – 20%  
Class B – 436 to 689 – 94 schools – 15.3%  
Class C – 256 to 435 – 135 schools – 22.1%  
Class D – 255 and below – 176 schools – 28.8%

**Proposed Numbers:**

Class AA – 941 and up – 122 schools – 19.9%  
Class A – 587 to 939 – 123 schools – 20%  
Class B – 345 to 586 – 122 schools – 19.9%  
Class C – 203 to 344 – 123 schools – 20%  
Class D – 202 and below – 122 schools – 19.9%





**New York State Public High School Athletic Association  
Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2015**

**Football Classification Cut-Off Numbers**

☒ Action Item  
☐ Discussion/ Information Item

**Presenter:** Todd Nelson

**Proposal:** To change the current classification cut-off numbers to the proposed classification cut-off numbers (see below)

**Rationale:** It is the Football Committee desire to equal the number of schools in each class participating in the sport of football.

**Budget Impact:** None

**Notes:** The recommended change is to take effect in the 2016 Football season.

**Current Numbers:**

Class AA – 930 and up – 84 schools – 19.60%  
Class A – 570 to 929 – 89 schools – 20.70%  
Class B – 365 to 569 – 90 schools – 21%  
Class C – 240 to 364 – 95 schools – 22.10%  
Class D – 239 and below – 70 schools – 16.30%

**Proposed Numbers:**

Class AA – 930 and up – 84 schools – 19.60%  
Class A – 570 to 929 – 89 schools – 20.70%  
Class B – 365 to 569 – 90 schools – 21%  
Class C – 250 to 364 – 86 schools – 20.09%  
Class D – 249 and below – 79 schools – 18.46%

Slate, Robert

## Boy's Lacrosse Classifications

Gentlemen,

Attached is information regarding possible changes in classifications for boy's lacrosse for the future.

The Word document is a memo from me with a breakdown of where our Section IX teams would be placed based on the different classification scenarios.

My recommendation would be to stay with the current classification format. I believe it gives Section IX and the state the best balance. I am completely against the 4 class format.

Respectfully,

Bob

--

Robert Slate  
Saugerties JHS  
Art Teacher  
Head Lacrosse Coach  
NYSPHSAA Section 9 Chairman  
US Lacrosse Mid-Hudson Region Chairman



TO: Section IX Athletic Council and Section IX Athletic Directors

FROM: Bob Slate, Section IX Boy's Lacrosse Chairman

DATE: April 8, 2015

RE: Boy's Lacrosse Classification Numbers

At the NYSPHSAA Boy's Lacrosse Committee meeting changing the classification numbers or number of classes for boy's lacrosse was discussed. Since that time Todd Nelson of NYSPHSAA has developed a chart with all boy's lacrosse schools listed and tabs indicating the cut-off numbers for different classification breakdowns. Below is where our schools would be placed based on each classification.

**Current Boy's Lacrosse Classification (Class A 95 schools, Class B 119 schools, Class C 116 schools)**

<b>Class A (1000 and Up)</b>	<b>Class B (590-999)</b>	<b>Class C (589 – Down)</b>
Newburgh Free Academy 2521 Monroe Woodbury 1728 Middletown 1613 Kingston 1432 Pine Bush 1330 Valley Central 1127 Washingtonville 1036 Minisink Valley 1018	Warwick 984 FD Roosevelt 947 Cornwall 804 Wallkill 759 Goshen 702 Saugerties 686 Highland 610	New Paltz 574 Red Hook 496 Rondout Valley 467 John S. Burke Catholic 376 James I. O'Neill 370 Rhinebeck 304 Millbrook 259

**Even Split Boy's Lacrosse Classification (Class A 109 schools, Class B 112 schools, Class C 109 schools)**

<b>Class A (961 and Up)</b>	<b>Class B (561-960)</b>	<b>Class C (560 and below)</b>
Newburgh Free Academy 2521 Monroe Woodbury 1728 Middletown 1613 Kingston 1432 Pine Bush 1330 Valley Central 1127 Washingtonville 1036 Minisink Valley 1018 Warwick 984	FD Roosevelt 947 Cornwall 804 Wallkill 759 Goshen 702 Saugerties 686 Highland 610 New Paltz 574	Red Hook 496 Rondout Valley 467 John S. Burke Catholic 376 James I. O'Neill 370 Rhinebeck 304 Millbrook 259

**4 Class Boy's Lacrosse Classification (Class A 82 schools, Class B 82 schools, Class C 83 schools, Class D 82 schools)**

<b>Class A (1083 and Up)</b>	<b>Class B (766-1082)</b>	<b>Class C (460-765)</b>	<b>Class D (459 and down)</b>
Newburgh Free Academy 2521 Monroe Woodbury 1728 Middletown 1613 Kingston 1432 Pine Bush 1330 Valley Central 1127	Washingtonville 1036 Minisink Valley 1018 Warwick 984 FD Roosevelt 947 Cornwall 804	Wallkill 759 Goshen 702 Saugerties 686 Highland 610 New Paltz 574 Red Hook 496 Rondout Valley 467	John S. Burke Catholic 376 James I. O'Neill 370 Rhinebeck 304 Millbrook 259



2015-2016 NYSPHSAA Championship  
TENTATIVE DATES/SITES



**Fall 2015**

Oct 31/Nov 1-2	G Tennis	Tri City Tennis Center, Latham (2)
Nov 14	B/G Cross Country	Monroe-Woodbury High School (9)
Nov 14-15	G Soccer	SUNY Cortland, Homer HS, Tompkins Cortland CC (3)
Nov 14-15	B Soccer	Middletown HS (9)
Nov 14-15	Field Hockey	Maine Endwell HS (4)
Nov 21	B Volleyball	Suffolk County Community College (11)
Nov 21	Federation Cross Country	Bowdoin Park, Wappingers Falls (1)
Nov 21-22	G Volleyball	Glens Falls Civic Center (2)
Nov 20-21	G Swimming/Diving	Ithaca College, Ithaca (4)
Nov 20-21	Football East Semifinals	TBA
Nov 20-21	Football West Semifinals	TBA
Nov 27-29	Football Finals	Carrier Dome, Syracuse (3)

***Presented by the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council***

**Winter 2015-2016**

Feb 22-23	B/G Skiing	Whiteface/Mt. Van Hoevenburg, Lake Placid (7)
Feb 26-27	Wrestling	Times Union Center, Albany (2)
Feb 27	Girls Gymnastics	TBA
March 4-5	Boys Swimming/Diving	Erie Community College Buffalo (6)
March 5	Boys Volleyball (Regional)	Section 3 TBA
March 5	B/G Indoor Track/Field	Cornell University (4)
March 5	Rifle (Regional)	TBA
March 5	Cheerleading	Onondaga Community College (3)
March 5-6	B/G Bowling	TBA
March 12-13	Ice Hockey	TBA
March 11-13	Girls Basketball	Hudson Valley Community College, Troy (2)

***Presented by the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council***

March 11-13	Boys Basketball	Civic Center, Glens Falls (2)
-------------	-----------------	-------------------------------

***Presented by the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council***

March 18-20	Boys/Girls Federation Basketball Tournament of Champions	Times Union Center, Albany (2)
-------------	--	--------------------------------

**Spring 2016**

June 1	B Lacrosse East Semis	TBA
June 1	B Lacrosse West Semis	TBA
June 2-4	B Tennis	National Tennis Center, Flushing (NYC)
June 3-4	G Lacrosse	SUNY Cortland (3)
June 4	B Lacrosse Finals	Middletown HS (9)
June 4-6	B Golf	Cornell University, Ithaca (4)
June 10-11	B/G Track & Field	Cicero-North-Syracuse HS (3)
June 11	Softball	Moreau Park, South Glens Falls (2)
June 11	Baseball	Binghamton (4)
June 10-12	G Golf	TBA
June 12	Federation Golf	Bethpage State Park, Farmingdale (8)





# Section IX Athletics

Robert Thabet, Executive Director

## Section IX Athletics – Start Dates

All Fall Sports – Monday, August 17, 2015  
Ice Hockey – Monday, November 2, 2015  
Winter Sports – Monday, November 9, 2015  
Spring Sports – Monday, March 7, 2016

## Section IX Meeting Dates and Sites

* Thurs., Sept 17, 2015	Wallkill High School	9:30 a.m.
	* Mandated NYSPHSAA Workshop	
Tues., October 20, 2015	Orange-Ulster BOCES	9:30 a.m.
Tues., Nov. 24, 2015	Coleman Catholic High School	9:30 a.m.
Tues., Jan. 5, 2016	Orange-Ulster BOCES	9:30 a.m.
Tues., March 15, 2016	Monroe-Woodbury Ed. Center	9:30 a.m.
Tues., April 19, 2016	Orange-Ulster BOCES	9:30 a.m.
Tues., May 17, 2016	Coleman Catholic High School	9:30 a.m.
Tues., June 14, 2016	TBA	

April 2015

To: Modified Athletics Representatives

From:

Re: Spring 2015 Meeting Report  
NYSPHSAA Committee for Modified Athletics

The spring meeting of the NYSPHSAA Committee for Modified Athletics took place on March 27, 2015 in Latham, New York. A synopsis of the meeting is as follows:

**I. Items that will go to the State Executive Committee in May 2015:**

**A. Volleyball Serving Rotation**

Motion:

*"With section/league approval, the boys' and girls' modified volleyball rotation may be adjusted so that when a modified athlete successfully serves five (5) consecutive serves that are not returned, that team rotates to its next server."*

The motion passed 16-4. If it passes, this item will be forwarded to the Handbook Committee.

**B. Waiver for Modified Soccer Goalie Uniform**

Motion:

*"The NFHS regulation that the boys' and girls' soccer goalie uniform jersey be numbered shall be waived at the modified level for two years (2015-16 and 2016-17)."*

The motion passed 20-0.

**II. Items that will go to the State Safety Committee in April 2015**

**A. Increases in Wrestling Game Conditions #1 and #2 Points**

Motion:

*Wrestling Game Condition #1 shall be changed as follows:*

*'A contestant (or team) may participate in competitions not to exceed 14 points during the season.'*

The motion passed 19-0-1. If it passes, it will be forwarded to the Executive and Handbook Committees.

Motion:

*"Wrestling Game Condition #2 shall be changed as follows:*

*No contestant (or team) can accumulate more than 10 points out of the maximum 14 points allowed via 2 point contests."*

The motion passed 19-0-1. If it passes, it will be forwarded to the Executive and Handbook Committees.



**B. Cross Country Pilot Program**

Motion:

*"Section III shall be permitted to adopt a two-year pilot program in modified cross-country that will permit modified cross-country runners to wear spiked running shoes. With section/league approval, other sections may participate in this pilot program. Each section/league participating will be required to provide injury data after the 2015 and 2016 modified cross-country seasons."*

The motion passed 20-0. If passed, it will be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

Does our Section wish to join in this pilot program?

**III Items which will occur before the Fall 2015 Modified Committee meeting:**

- Completion of sectional Fall 2014 football pilot program post-season injury surveys by Sections 5 and 6 by May 1, 2015; preparation of final Fall 2014 State football pilot program results by modified football coordinator Steve Nolan
- Efforts to secure modified sport coordinators for girls' gymnastics and boys' and girls' tennis
- A "Survey Monkey" document will be designed and distributed to collect state-wide coaches' opinions of the use of the 3-point shot in modified boys' and girls' basketball. Please participate when we share it with you!
- Appropriate report presentations by spring sports coordinators. The following sports are scheduled for review: baseball, boys' and girls' lacrosse, softball, boys' and girls' tennis, boys' and girls' track and field

**IV. Discussion Items for Next Meeting**

None at this time.

**V. Action Items for Next Meeting**

None at this time.

**VI. Information Items**

1. Scoring in Badminton and Tennis. For the purpose of ensuring that every eligible badminton and tennis player has the opportunity to play in a match, game rules in those sports now allow each player to play an additional singles or doubles match per day, provided that every individual player plays once before any player plays twice. Several sections in the state are taking advantage of this game rule. The question has been raised if these additional matches should "count" towards the team scoring, or just the 4 singles and 4 doubles matches. Committee members engaged in conversation on this issue, bringing up these points: there is no down side to playing additional matches, more kids playing and feeling good about contributing to their school is great; it may be

**Special Olympics Project UNIFY®** is an education and sports based strategy powered by an engaged youth community that increases athletic and leadership opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities, while creating communities of acceptance for all.

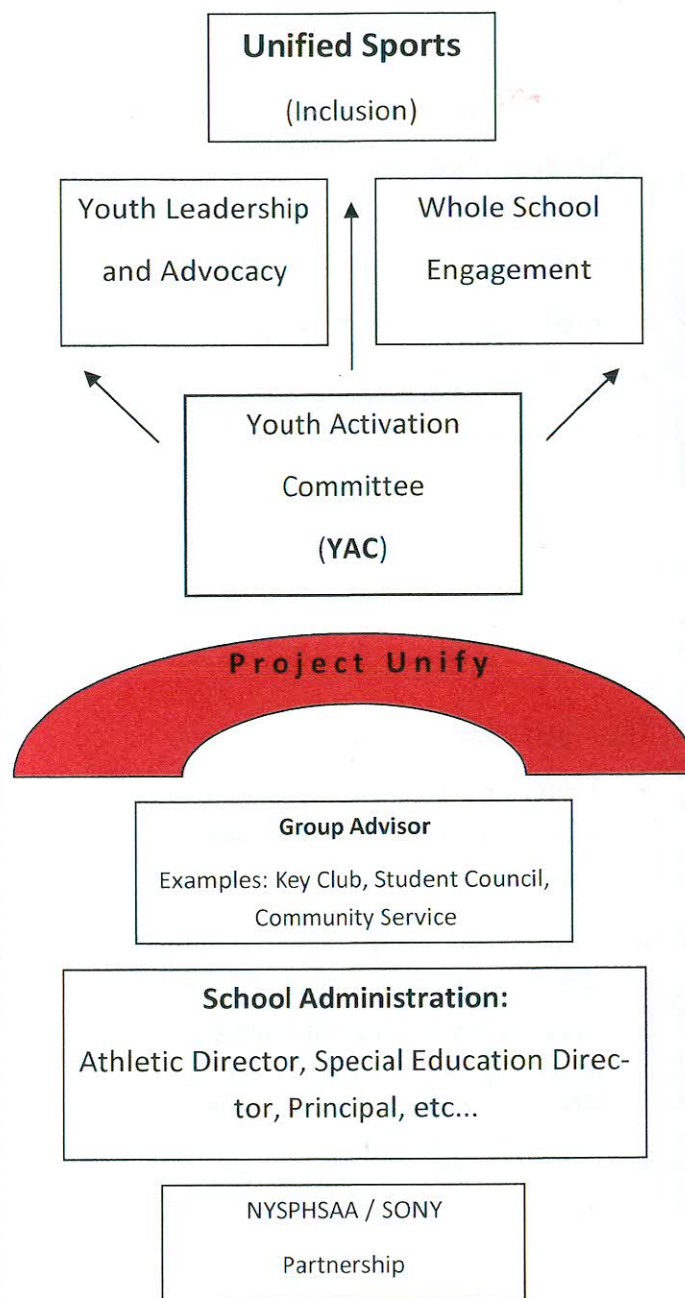
### Youth Activation Committee

**Who:** Youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities from the same school.

**Purpose:** To educate, motivate, and activate youth to become agents of change in their communities through advocacy for respect, inclusion, and acceptance for all people.

**How:** Plan and implement activities that create a culture of inclusiveness in the school.

**Why:** To create a whole school environment where authentic social inclusion and learning happens through meaningful activity providing for respect and dignity for all.



## Project Unify Unified Sports



## Guidelines and Information



## What is Unified Sports?

Unified Sports® is a registered program of Special Olympics that combines approximately equal numbers of athletes with and without intellectual disability on sports teams for training and competition. All Unified Sports® players, both athletes and special partners, are of similar age and matched sport skill ability. Unified Sports® teams are placed in competitive divisions based on their skill abilities, and range from training divisions (with a skill-learning focus) to high level competition. Besides providing a similar competitive experience to regular school interscholastic sport opportunities players will also gain physical fitness, develop friendships and demonstrate appreciation and respect for each other both on and off the playing field.

## Why Unified Sports?

The purpose of a Unified Sports team is to provide authentic, competitive opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to participate in athletics.

Active inclusion thru athletics provides educational benefits to participants.

## Current Proposal

- NYSPHSAA recognized sport
- High School Team (9-12)
- Basketball
- Spring six game league play
- Culminating Tournament

## Team Selection Process

- Teams are comprised of students with intellectual disabilities and partners (non-disabled students)
- Select SWD athletes who are able and willing to participate. For information on defining intellectual disabilities click here: ([http://resources.specialolympics.org/Sections/Who\\_We\\_Are/About\\_Intellectual\\_Disabilities.aspx](http://resources.specialolympics.org/Sections/Who_We_Are/About_Intellectual_Disabilities.aspx))
- Select students of similar ability from general education population
- Ask: "Is this a good fit for each student?"

## District Commitment Timeline

- Sept/October – Information dispersed to stakeholders
- Oct-Dec – Recruit select/advisor coach
- January – League-wide Unified Sports orientation with coaches
- January-March – Plan activities that build awareness and sustainability including Youth Activation Committee
- March – Implement team selection process including sign ups and medical clearance
- April – Practices Begin
- April/May – Regular season games
- May – Culminating Tournament

## Budget Items to consider

- Advisor and Coach Salary
- Uniforms
- Officials/Transportation
- Other (supplies, game management, etc.)



# Special Olympics Project UNIFY Factsheet



## A Broader Vision of Social Inclusion Through Youth Activation and Inclusive Sports

**The Problem** (universal, not limited to intellectual disabilities population)

Young students face many challenges today, from achieving personal and academic success to feeling emotionally and physically healthy and safe. These challenges are compounded for some students due to the presence of an intellectual disability. Although progress has been made by many educational systems in promoting the physical and instructional inclusion of students with intellectual disabilities there are still staggering social challenges for these students that compromise their social and emotional well-being. Students with intellectual disabilities experience negative attitudes from their peers, social isolation and rejection, and even victimization in the form of bullying. And, in many cultures, youth with intellectual disabilities are not included in educational programs at all or are educated separately and unnecessarily away from their peers without intellectual disabilities.

**The Intervention** (evidence based)

Special Olympics Project UNIFY® is built upon the premise that in order to have the greatest impact the change needs to start with young people. Project UNIFY brings youth with and without intellectual disabilities together through education and sports and related initiatives that provide them with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to create and sustain school communities that pro-

mote the acceptance, respect and human dignity for all students. Project UNIFY is made up of three main components:

- 1) Inclusive Sports** – provides opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities to participate in sports activities alongside one another and which we have found to be among the most conducive activity for breaking down stereotypes (e.g. Unified Sports®, unified physical education and intramurals, inclusive Young Athletes®).
- 2) Youth Leadership & Advocacy** – provides students with and without intellectual disabilities opportunities to take on leadership roles in promoting Project UNIFY activities in the school and in the community (e.g. Partners Clubs, Youth Activation Committees, Youth Summits).
- 3) Whole-School Engagement** – provides opportunities for *all* students in the school to participate in Project UNIFY through school-wide activities (e.g. R-word campaign, Fans In the Stands, Youth/Pep Rallies, Pledge and Plunge).

It is the combination of these unique components that provides the most opportunity for creating positive school climates and ensuring that all students, particularly those with intellectual disabilities, become part of the social fabric of the school.



## Outcomes

- Students without disabilities hold more positive attitudes toward their peers with intellectual disabilities. (Measure: attitude and behavior change);
- When school communities are based on acceptance, students with intellectual disabilities feel welcome and are routinely included in, and feel a part of, all school activities, opportunities and functions; (Measure: perceptions of school climate);
- Perception of Special Olympics as a school and community partner that offers programming that benefits all students. (Measure: perceptions of Special Olympics by general educators and school administrators);
- More students with and without intellectual disabilities playing sports together (Measures: increased Unified Sports Teams and programs, more 2-7 year-olds participating in Young Athletes, and more Young Athlete programs).
- Three quarters, or 74%, of participating students said Project UNIFY was a positive turning point in their lives and that they became more patient, learned to compromise, and in two thirds of instances said they learned they have things in common with their peers with intellectual disabilities;
- Nearly all school liaisons and students said they would like to participate next year and that **Project UNIFY was successful** at their school.

## Reach

### Current:

- Project UNIFY is currently offered in 2,100 schools across 42 states.
- As many as 500,000 young people are experiencing Project UNIFY activities and projects, including 21,000 Special Olympics athletes and 11,000 youth leaders.
- Approximately 8,000 school-age Unified Sports® partners participated this past year.

### Future Goals:

- Expand Project UNIFY in the U.S. by 2015 to include 5,000 schools.
- Expand opportunities for youth leadership in all U.S. Programs and increase Unified Sports® participation among school aged youth.
- Increase the engagement of general educators and school and state administrators in Project UNIFY principles and practices.

## Impact

- **Two thirds**, or 66%, of school liaisons observed that Project UNIFY **helps raise awareness** about students with intellectual disabilities and increases opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities to work together;
- More than half of school liaisons observed that Project UNIFY increases opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to get involved in school activities;



## *In their own words...* *the impact of Playing Unified*

After the 2013-14 Section 2 Pilot Project of Project Unify, parents, athletes, partners, teachers and administrators shared their experiences and thoughts. Overwhelmingly, the program was seen to have a tremendous impact not only on the students with intellectual disabilities, but on the school as a whole!



"They tell athletic directors to never say this team or that team is your favorite team, but I can say without question that the Unified Sports basketball team is my favorite team. Their spirit, effort and hard work was infectious. Seeing the partners interact with the students with special needs away from the basketball court is what this program is really about."

*Chris Culnan— Director of Athletics  
Shenendehowa HS*

"From a parent's perspective this league is a unique opportunity for my daughter. It is the only time that Haley has been able to represent GHS at an athletic event because of her physical limitations due to her disability. Haley has been required to make a commitment to work as part of her team. She had to go to practice and work hard even when she was tired. So many times special needs kids are excused from that requirement, when it would not be overlooked for other students. It is a maturing experience."

This league is unique to our experience in another way. Each game has a winner and a loser. Haley participates in a number of local recreational sports teams. Though the activity is thoroughly enjoyed, each event ends without a winner or loser. Haley was not pleased when GHS lost their first game (neither was I) but it presented the first time Haley had to learn how to be a good loser. She needed to recognize how well the other team played and for today at least they were better than GHS. It left her wanting a rematch and saying we will have to play better next time. Now she would be set to better to enjoy the next win when it happens."

*Jeanie Reedy  
Parent of Unified Athlete  
Guilderland HS*





## *In their own words... the impact of Playing Unified*

"It was incredible to watch these athletes practice together, learn together, and grow together. They didn't expect to win easily, but they attacked every game with the same enthusiasm. The team grew immensely together and I am so amazingly proud of what they accomplished this season..."



...members of the unified team and members of Youth Activation Committee tie dyed T-shirts together, to create an identity as a group, and to help promote the first home game. Through our actions together, we were able to completely fill the stands with proud families and fellow classmates.

...this experience changed the lives of all those involved. I saw attitudes of the athletes change quickly. Also those athletes who were shy and quiet completely broke out of their shells. Every student contributed in their own way. This program brought the school together and the overall attitude became more positive throughout the hallways. I cannot wait to see what next season has to bring."

**Raechel Yost— Youth Activation Student Leader  
Columbia HS**

"...so proud of our community and was so moved by the support extended to our team. "

**Colette Gallagher-Unified Coach  
Guilderland HS**

"I have coached all levels from the CYO to Varsity; and this has been the most rewarding and inspiring experience yet."

**Ben Pierson-Unified Coach  
Mohonasen HS**



"Unified Sports allowed my students to focus and commit to a task like nothing I have ever tried in the classroom. Rearranging personal schedules to make practices, bringing healthy snacks to be ready for competition, walking just a bit more tall the day after a game (regardless of having won or lost)... these are specific benefits I couldn't help but notice!"

**Susan Hartley— Special Educator  
Mechanicville HS**

