

• FALL 2022 •



THE SCOOP WITH COLLEGIATE SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED SPORTS®

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NIRSA CHAMP SERIES UNIFIED WORK TEAM



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SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS® SPOTLIGHT

DUKE UNIVERSITY

"In 2013, a group of eager Duke students formed the Special Olympics (SO) Club. At this time, the SO Club on campus was very robust with over 100 members registered. As participation continued to grow, partnerships between Duke Recreation and Physical Education, Durham County Special Olympics, and the SO Club were formed. With the help of club officers, the Duke University Unified Sports program began with the inaugural Spring 2017 Basketball season. The following season the program grew and added Unified Flag Football leagues. During the pandemic, the SO Club continued to stay engaged, while also staying safe and following COVID-19 guidelines. Kahoot games, dance parties, and weekly workout sessions were all held virtually. Each week the group decided on a new sport to do fitness exercises for, which included football, boxing, basketball, and tennis. Most recently, Duke University received national recognition from Special Olympics for its achievements with inclusion.

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**SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BECOMING A NATIONAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS
UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOL®**

DUKE UNIVERSITY CONT'D

"Duke's Special Olympics Unified programming has continued to draw in student volunteers and athletes in the Durham community for almost a decade. One of the highlights of the program has been the incorporation of the Unified Basketball Rivalry Series, where teams at Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill play annually. The club's current President, Sarah Kelso, said: "It wasn't easy staying in touch during the early stages of the pandemic, but I am grateful we were able to make it work and eventually get back to playing games together. We are really excited to continue offering in person sports for this school year and we are even looking at adding a few more programming options! One of the athletes, Grant, expressed interest in e-sports tournaments for basketball and football. We are also hoping to attend a few regional tournaments. I am looking forward to leading the group this year and seeing it grow!" Duke Special Olympics will begin the fall semester on September 13th with our Unified Fall Kickoff event, with food, games, and fun times!"

-Brittany Burriss - Coordinator of Intramural Sports



UPCOMING EVENTS

UNIFIED SPORTS PRESENTATIONS COMING TO YOU!

The NIRSA Championship Sports Unified Work Team will be presenting on the 101 of Unified Sports at state workshops and regional conferences this fall!

Check us out at:

ORSA State Workshop - October 5-7, 2022

Region 2 Conference - October 10-12, 2022

Region 1 Conference - October 16-18, 2022

Region 6 Conference - October 31-November 2, 2022



**DID YOU KNOW?
ALL NIRSA REGIONAL FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS WILL HAVE UNIFIED DIVISIONS!**

FLAG FOOTBALL OFFICIALS APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW!

The NIRSA Championship Series is looking for Regional and National Flag Football Officials!

This fall, there will be multiple tournaments in a variety of regions around the country:

Region 2: October 7-9 @ University of Central Florida (**Close Sept 22nd**)

Region 4: October 28-30 @ The University of Texas at San Antonio (**Closes Oct 5th**)

Region 1: November 4-6 @ University of Massachusetts - Amherst (**Closes Oct 14th**)

Region 4: November 4-6 @ Oklahoma State University (**Closes Oct 14th**)

Region 1: November 11-13 @ University of Maryland (**Closes Oct 21st**)

Region 5: November 11-13 @ University of Nebraska (**Closes Oct 28th**)

Region 2: November 18-20 @ University of North Carolina Wilmington (**Closes Oct 28th**)

Region 2: December 2-4 @ The University of Southern Mississippi (**Closes Nov 11th**)

If you are interested in applying, please click [HERE!](#)



INFORMATION & RESOURCES

THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED INTRAMURAL SPORTS GUIDE

Want to run a Unified intramural league but don't know where to start?

[HERE](#) is a guide that offers step-by-step recommendations to run a league of your own!

KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UP TO DATE ON THE INSTITUTIONAL UNIFIED SPORTS® DATABASE!

Click [HERE](#) to access our database. Use this to update any contact information you might have. If you are offering any new unified sports please use the 'Other' column to list anything not considered a Championship Series sport.



BECOME A NATIONAL BANNER SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOL®!

Click [HERE](#) for the 10 College Standards for a school!

For a complete list of recognized schools, please click [HERE](#)

3 WAYS TO PLAY: SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED ESPORTS AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL

This resource is built to help established or interested college clubs/campus recreation programs determine what level of involvement is right for them.

Click [HERE](#) to check it out!

Diversity: the art of thinking independently together.