



• SPRING 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

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

"Following a highly successful pilot program in Spring Semester 2015, Michigan State's Department of Recreational Sports and Fitness Services (RSFS), Special Olympic Michigan (SOMI), and Special Olympics MSU (SOMSU, a registered student organization) increased the number of Unified Sports offerings on campus. The activities take place during the academic year, in conjunction with the IM Sports program. The increase in Unified Sports has helped strengthen the campus environment and has benefitted community members through engagement and inclusion in the program; over 1500 students/partners and athletes have participated in the program since its inception.

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

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY CONT'D

The Unified Sports program at MSU relies heavily on SOMSU student leaders to plan, organize, coordinate, and implement the program on a day-to-day basis. Over the years, the program has benefited from the involvement of specific individuals that have made it a highly successful initiative. We are very fortunate to have worked alongside Jessica Osos, Anna Blakeslee, Sarah Kort, Clarissa Orr, Liz Lobaccaro, Ashley Verbeyst, Andrew Kistler, Kyleigh Egnatuk, Kody Birtles, Kayla Somsel, and Grant Alvado. These students deserve credit for making the program successful! We've also been blessed by close interactions with Scott George and Dan Ekonen over the years. We could not have gotten started or continue to do what we do without their guidance and support."

-Ross Winter, Assistant Director, Recreational Sports and Fitness Services

IN REVIEW



NIRSA CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES ESPORTS ROCKET LEAGUE UNIFIED DIVISION IN REVIEW

From February 24th through February 26th, NIRSA hosted a Unified division at the national esports Rocket League tournament for the second year. Teams from Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Utah competed for the "National Champion" title in an exciting weekend of Rocket League. The finals were "SOPA Unified" from Pennsylvania versus the "Utah Gamurs" from the University of Utah. In the end, the Utah Gamurs claimed the trophy! Watch the thrilling Best-of-7 championship game on [NIRSA's Twitch channel](#).

If your program or school is interested in getting involved in Unified esports, reach out to Jeffrey Hares (jhares@specialolympics.org).

UPCOMING EVENTS



REGISTER NOW! VIRTUAL COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIP WEEK 2022

Calling all leaders and supporters of Special Olympics at the college level! Compete with your team in our 2nd annual contest - April 11-15, 2022. This opportunity can be for all Special Olympics College Clubs, collegiate Unified teams, student-athlete leadership committees, campus departments and similar Unified groups. [TEAM REGISTRATION HERE](#) now-April 1, 2022.

For more info view our [Info Sheet](#), [VCCW Info Video](#), or email Scott George at sgeorge@specialolympics.org.



UNIFIED SPORTS EXPERIENCE: HOOP SHOOT CONTEST AT NIRSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Get inspired to support Unified Sports in your community!

For \$1, the Special Olympics Unified Sports Experience Hoop Shoot contest paired conference attendees with a Special Olympics athlete. Each have one minute to make as many baskets as possible in their new, arcade-style shoot out!

Early visitors to the Unified Hoop Shoot get special swag, and the overall winner earns an extra sweet reward benefitting their campus. Join the fun and explore what Unified Sports are all about in Booth 1235 in the Expo Hall



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](#)

VOLUNTEER AT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES IN JUNE!

You can volunteer at the Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando, Florida in June. There are a variety of areas that you can volunteer with:

- Sports
- Special Events
- Operations
- Marketing & Development

Sign up individually or as a group!

INTERESTED? [FILL OUT THIS FORM](#)



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
ORLANDO 2022**

**Diversity: the art of thinking independently
together.**