



UNIFIED SOCCER - MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT

The Special Olympics Sports Rules provide standards for Special Olympics competition. When there is an obvious and overwhelming disparity between the involvement of teammates and such involvement or lack thereof indicates a clear departure from the dignified and meaningful competition experience provisions of Special Olympics Sports Rules Article 1, the Unified Sports Committee (USC) of the Games Organizing Committee may authorize and impose penalties and sanctions with support from the following sections of the Special Olympics Sports Rules 2012. The following Sections will be considered:

Article 1 Section C. 2. CODE OF CONDUCT –

Article 1 Section F. 3. MEDICAL AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS –

Article 1, Section L. 2b. HEALTH AND SAFETY –

A coach should place the health and safety of athletes first and exclude partners with significantly greater skill levels which may create a risk to others.

Article 1, Section L. 3c. PHILOSOPHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Unified Sports experience is enhanced when the ability level of teammates are as closely matched as possible. The risk of injury is diminished and provides a more meaningful sports competition experience.

COACH'S CODE OF CONDUCT

A coach ensures a positive experience by making certain that the competition challenges the athlete's potential and are appropriate to that athlete's ability.

A coach ensures that he/she will act professionally and take responsibility for his/her actions.

The coach agrees that if the Code of Conduct is violated, his/her actions will be subject to consequences.

The coach is held accountable for violations pursuant to the Sports Rules and Coach's Code of Conduct and therefore subject to penalty for unsporting behavior.

CONDUCT OF COMPETITION

If a member of the USC determines that a player is dominating play (resulting in an unfair advantage and/or to the exclusion of lower-ability teammates in violation of the meaningful competition provision of Article 1) to gain an unfair advantage, the USC official may sanction the coach of the offending team and/or offending player. Sanctions may include warnings to the coach; carding the player and/or coach; loss of game points; or disqualification from the game.

The following is a list of examples (and is not limited to) which could lead to possible "dominant play" sanctions

1. Scoring opportunities as a result of frequent give-and-goes or designed plays are employed by specific individuals (Example: partners) only.

2. Players consistently not utilizing teammates, ignoring teammates, bypassing teammates, etc... while attempting to penetrate offensively.
3. A player consistently dominates individually on either the offensive or defensive end of the field.
4. Players consistently have very limited opportunities to handle, pass, shoot and dribble the ball while there is team control.
5. Players repeatedly fail to pass the ball to an open teammates for an obvious scoring opportunity.
6. In the last minutes of competition, the participation of identified players is noticeably increased to the exclusion of teammates.
7. Coaches do not engage in tactics and strategies to eliminate player dominance or develop methods for meaningful involvement.

Important Notes:

- * Player dominance and meaningful involvement may include or exclude both athletes and partners.
- * The officials on the field do not monitor or determine meaningful involvement, however, they may be asked for input during dead-balls, halftime or at the completion of games.
- * The USC has the right to implement the below infractions at any time.

UNIFIED SPORTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Unified Sports Committee will be composed of representatives from the following constituent groups by the technical delegate for the 2014 USA National Games. Members of the USC will gather after each game to complete a game summary form which will be provided to the technical delegate for review. The game summary form will include comments and concerns and will be filed for future reference.

1. Chair: Soccer Technical Delegate
2. Experienced Unified Sports Staff / Professional(s)
3. Head Official and Experienced Unified Official(s)
4. Sport Specific Unified Sports Trainers
5. Head Coach(s)
6. Unified Partner(s)
7. Athlete(s)

VIOLATIONS / INFRACTIONS

For the 2014 Special Olympics National Games, the following procedures will be implemented if a USC member determines that (a) partner/s in the Unified Sports Soccer Competition is dominating play, to the exclusion of teammates.

1. First violation, verbal warning given to the head coach by USC member. This may take place during or upon completion of the game. An entry is noted in the official scorebook. The scorebook entry includes the number(s) of the player(s) involved and comments.
2. Second violation, coach receives official warning (yellow card) and required to meet with USC upon completion of the game. An entry is noted in the official scorebook. The scorebook entry includes the number(s) of the player(s) involved and comments.
3. Third violation, the coach is suspended for a game and receives a one game suspension. Any subsequent violations the head coach will be suspended for all future games in this competition.

Note: The USC has the right to implement a sanction to players not responding to coaching strategies and leadership.

Unified Soccer Game Summary

Home Team: _____ Away Team: _____

Field: _____ Game Time: _____ Division: _____

Names of Summary Committee: _____

1. Did each team utilize all players on the team? Did everyone have a meaningful role? How was the team play?

2. Any Outstanding Players? List numbers? Is there a potential for player dominance in future games?

3. Team(s) ability to adjust to competitive levels:

Comments: