

Unified Play Partner

Guidelines for Participation at Young Athletes Community Programs

Who is a unified play partner?

A unified play partner is an individual age 8 – 13 who would like to be a role model during a Young Athletes community program. A unified play partner can be a sibling of a Young Athlete or an individual from the community that has a genuine interest in Special Olympics Young Athletes.

Young children will organically look to older children to learn how to complete a task, behave or interact with others. Unified play partners serve as **role models** for Young Athletes and unified partners age 2 – 7 by demonstrating skills being presented by the coach or volunteers. They are expected to play with the participants of the program and lead by example to help the participants develop gross motor skills and positive social interaction.

Unified play partners do not participate in Young Athletes community programs as would a Young Athlete or unified partner age 2 -7 and they do fill a spot designated for the participants.

Unified Play Partner Role

- ✓ Follow the directions of the Young Athletes coach
- ✓ Display kind behavior to others
- ✓ Demonstrate games and skills to individual Young Athletes or groups of Young Athletes
- ✓ Help younger children with games or activities if they need assistance
- ✓ Demonstrate proper use of equipment
- ✓ Display positive attitude to winning and losing a game
- ✓ Follow the rules of the games or activities that are being played

Agreement:

I agree to be the best role model and unified play partner that I can be!

Name: _____

