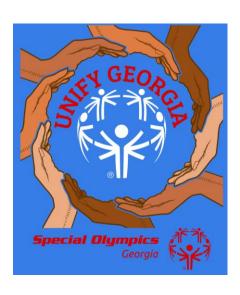
# 2016-2017

# **Unify Georgia**





Informational Guide
Special Olympics Georgia
2016-2017



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### What is Unify Georgia?

**Unify Georgia** for Special Olympics Georgia is a program that continues to support the overall vision and components of the Project Unify® grant program that Special Olympics International introduced in 2007. By definition, Project Unify ®is an education-based project that uses sports and education programs to activate young people to develop school communities where all youth are agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities. While Project Unify ®, its framework and components make-up part of **Unify Georgia**, Special Olympics Georgia has condensed and fine – tuned the program to meet the needs for all Special Olympics Georgia Athletes.

What makes **Unify Georgia** different from Project Unify <sup>®</sup> is that the program and its components are not strictly limited to schools and the school age population, but offered to *ALL* ages and types of programs involved with Special Olympics Georgia. In **Unify Georgia,** programs can choose to implement as few or as many components of **Unify Georgia**. The goal is to impact your program and community in the most positive way!

By implementing **Unify Georgia** in your programming, you will see improvement in inclusive opportunities for your constituents with and without intellectual disabilities. **Unify Georgia** will also aid in spreading awareness throughout the community.



## **Does my program qualify as a Unify Georgia program?**

So, how does one know if their current program qualifies as a **Unify Georgia** program? Surprisingly, many Special Olympics Georgia programs have in the past or are currently providing programming that aligns with some or most of the **Unify Georgia** components! The issue lies with communication between the Special Olympics Georgia state office and the local programs, as well as reporting of component activity. Special Olympics Georgia is striving to bridge the gap when it comes to communication and reporting of local programs' activity in relation to **Unify Georgia** components.

In order to be a **Unify Georgia** program, the following items must be conducted and reported to the Special Olympics Georgia state office:

- The program must be an accredited Special Olympics Georgia program and have an active and complete accreditation on file with the state office.
- The program must complete and submit a written letter of commitment for Unify Georgia to the state office.
- The program must identify an on-site **Unify Georgia** Liaison and have the Liaison sign and submit the **Unify Georgia** Job Description to the state office.
- Engage in professional development opportunities provided by the Special Olympics Georgia state office. (Mini Sports Camps, State Games, State Invitationals, Fundraisers, etc.)
- The program MUST submit a mid-year report (December 2016) and an end-year report (July 2017), detailing their Unify Georgia activity(s) with statistical data. Special Olympics Georgia strongly encourages programs to report monthly or bi-monthly, but only requires reporting twice a year.



### **Unify Georgia Components/Objectives**

In order to become a **Unify Georgia** program, one or more of the following components MUST be conducted during the 2016-2017 year, and the result(s) of the component(s) MUST be reported to the Special Olympics Georgia state office.

### **Unify Georgia Components**

#### **Inclusive Sports/Fitness Opportunities**

- Unified Sports for Competition
- Unified Sports Recreation for Training
- Young Athletes Inclusive Program (Ages 2 to 7)

#### **Leadership Opportunities**

- Unified/Inclusive Leadership Clubs (Partners Clubs, Best Buddies, etc.)
- Professional Development (Coaches Clinics, Mini Sports Camps, Global Messenger, etc.)

#### Whole Program/School Awareness & Involvement

- Get Into It (Educational Resources)
- Spread the Word to End the Word or Respect Campaigns
- Rallies/Forums/Assemblies
- Fans in the Stands/Unified Sports Day
- Fundraising Activities

#### These programs also agree to complete the following objectives:

- ✓ Provide a written letter of commitment and signed liaison job description
- Engage in professional development opportunities provided by the Special Olympics Georgia State Program (Unified Sports Coaches Training, Unified Sports education for program/schools personnel)
- ✓ Identify an on-site Unify Georgia Liaison



## **Definitions of Components**

Below is the listing of components and definitions of **Unify Georgia** that programs can implement:

- Unified Sports where individuals with intellectual disabilities (Athletes) and individuals
  without intellectual disabilities (Unified Partners) train and compete together in team
  events.
- Young Athletes an innovative sports play program for individuals with and without intellectual disabilities between the ages of 2 to 7, designed to foster physical, social and cognitive development before being eligible to compete in sports training and competition at the age of 8.
- Unified/Inclusive Leadership Clubs also referred to as Partners Clubs or Best Buddies; this provides individuals without intellectual disabilities opportunities to help mentor and train Special Olympics Athletes in their sports skills, prepare for upcoming competitions and develop meaningful relationships.
- Professional Development are opportunities organized by Special Olympics Georgia staff and volunteers, where individuals can be trained and educated on all programs that Special Olympics Georgia has to offer. Professional Development opportunities can be attending a coach's clinic or mini sports camp to become a certified coach or conducting global messenger presentations within the community to spread the vision and mission of Special Olympics Georgia.
- **Get Into It** (*Educational Resources*) a set of free, K-12 service learning lessons and resources designed to advance students' civic knowledge and skill development, while promoting acceptance and understanding to motivate youth to become advocates for all people. This program is used in schools, grades K-12.
- Respect Campaigns formally known as "R-Word Rallies", respect campaigns are
  intended to engage schools, organizations and communities to pledge and support the
  elimination of the use of the word "retard" or "retarded" from their vocabulary, and to
  promote the inclusion and acceptance of individuals with intellectual and
  developmental disabilities.



### (Definitions of Components Continued)

- Rallies/Forums/Assemblies these are organized functions where athletes, unified
  partners, coaches, family members and volunteers conduct informative sessions at their
  own facilities or places of business to promote awareness of Special Olympics and how
  individuals in the community can become involved. Unify Georgia programs can also
  utilize Special Olympics Georgia's social media accounts to spread awareness (Facebook,
  Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat).
- Fans in the Stands/Unified Sports Day an initiative designed to engage students, family members, and/or other Special Olympics supporters to organize efforts in cheering on Special Olympics athletes in action. These efforts may include making posters, banners or the organization of a program-wide pep rally for Special Olympics athletes at their facilities.
- Fundraising Activities fundraising campaigns or events taking place in the name of Special Olympics or to benefit Special Olympics programs must be approved by the Special Olympics Georgia state office and funds should be channeled through the state office. This does not mean that the money will not go directly back to your program; it simply allows for the state office to account for it appropriately. Some fundraising ideas could be but not limited to a car wash, Unified team challenges or competitions, t-shirt sales, Unified talent shows, Over the Edge, Polar Plunge, Duck Pluck, etc.



### Benefits of Unify Georgia for my program

There are many benefits for Special Olympics Georgia programs as it relates to implementing **Unify Georgia** within their programming. One of the largest and most important benefits is the spreading of awareness throughout the community about Special Olympics, and the inclusion of individuals with and without intellectual disabilities having the opportunities of training, competing and socializing together.

#### Some other benefits of **Unify Georgia** are:

- Provides programs with more inclusive opportunities through implementation of different components.
- Educates communities where **Unify Georgia** programs exist, that individuals with intellectual disabilities **ARE** contributing members of society.
- Eligible for a \$250 gift card for **Unify Georgia** programs that commit to implementing at least 3 components. This \$250 gift card can be used to purchase needed equipment and/or supplies to better your **Unify Georgia** program.
- Allows opportunities for family members to play on the same sports teams with their children through Unified Sports Competition.
- Allows Young Athletes with and without intellectual disabilities to learn and grow together through play activities that teach them the pre-requisite skills of sports play.



#### **Important Forms**

(Written Letter of Commitment Example)

The purpose of this letter is to state \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (program name) agreement to participate in Unify Georgia for the year of 2016-2017. We fully support \_\_\_\_\_\_ (liaisons name) in his/her efforts to complete all the requirements set forth to be considered a Unify Georgia Program.

This year we will participate in:

(Please circle which Unify Georgia component(s) your program will implement this year.)

#### **Inclusive Sports/Fitness Opportunities**

- Unified Sports for Competition
- Unified Sports Recreation for Training
- Young Athletes Inclusive Program (Ages 2 to 7)

#### **Leadership Opportunities**

- Unified/Inclusive Leadership Clubs (Partners Clubs, Best Buddies, etc.)
- Professional Development (Coaches Clinics, Mini Sports Camps, Global Messenger, etc.)

#### Whole Program/School Awareness & Involvement

- Get Into It (Educational Resources)
- Spread the Word to End the Word or Respect Campaigns
- Rallies/Forums/Assemblies
- Fans in the Stands/Unified Sports Day
- Fundraising Activities

Sincerely,

(Local Coordinator)

Date Signed:



### (Liaison Job Description)

#### **Unify Georgia Job Description**

**Summary:** The information numbered below are the minimum requirements that the Unify Georgia Liaison is responsible for conducting during the 2016-2017 year. The Unify Georgia time frame begins on September 30, 2016 and ends on July 31, 2017. The Unify Georgia Liaison will be responsible for communicating and working with the Special Olympics Georgia State Staff assigned to their area.

- 1-Establish an Accredited Special Olympics Program for the year to conduct Unify Georgia.
- 2-Complete all required registration paperwork and submit to the assigned SOGA staff member by September 30, 2016.
- 3-Recruit needed volunteers based on selected component(s).
- 4-Recruit the students/athletes/partners/coaches based on selected component(s).
- 5-Complete and submit all Athlete Participation forms (a.k.a. Medicals).
- 6-Complete and submit all Volunteer/Unified Partner Profile forms, verify all volunteers/coaches/unified partners that are 18 years of age and older are screened via the verified volunteer's website, submit protective behaviors confirmations, submit signed Coach Code of Conduct forms and submit the online Concussion Training certificate of completion for all volunteers and coaches.
- 7-Recruit and train the coaches/volunteers involved with program's Unify Georgia components.
- 8-Paticpate in professional development (Unified Sports Coaches Training, Unified Sports Education for school personnel, Mini Sports Camps, State Games, State Invitationals, etc.)
- 9- Incorporate at least one or more component(s) of the Unify Georgia program.
- 10-Complete and return all statistical forms, evaluations and surveys at the mid-year and end-year period.
- 11-Purchase needed equipment/supplies with funds raised by your program's fundraising efforts.
- 12-Report activity to the assigned SOGA staff member.
- 13-Any other activities as deemed necessary.

I understand the requirements of the Unify Georgia Liaison position and agree to perform the above listed duties.

Acknowledged: Unify Georgia Liaison	Date	
Acknowledged: Local Coordinator	 Date	
Approved: Special Olympics Georgia Staff	 Date	



## (Liaison Job Description continued)

## **Unify Georgia Liaison Information**

Name of Liaison:		
Job Title with school/organization:		
Address:		
City/State:	Zip:	
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Cell Phone:
Email:		
Organization/District/School Name	e:	
Address:		
City/State:	Zip:	

Circle the component(s) your program plans to implement during the 2016-2017 year:

#### **Inclusive Sports/Fitness Opportunities**

- Unified Sports for Competition
- Unified Sports Recreation for Training
- Young Athletes Inclusive Program (Ages 2 to 7)

#### **Leadership Opportunities**

- Unified/Inclusive Leadership Clubs (Partners Clubs, Best Buddies, etc.)
- Professional Development (Coaches Clinics, Mini Sports Camps, Global Messengers, etc.)

#### Whole Program/School Awareness & Involvement

- Get Into It (Educational Resources)
- Spread the Word to End the Word or Respect Campaigns
- Rallies/Forums/Assemblies
- Fans in the Stands/Unified Sports Day
- Fundraising Activities



# **Unify Georgia Liaison Monthly Report**

Liaison Name:		Month:							
School/Program Name:									
Please circle the component(s) of Unify Georgia that you completed this month:									
<b>Unified Sports Competit</b>	ion Unified	Sports Recreation	n Inclus	sive Young Athle	tes				
Professional Development	Unified/Inclus	sive Leadership Cl	ub (i.e. Partner's	s Club, Best Budo	dies, etc.)				
Get Into It Respect Cam	paign Rallies/Fo	orums/Assemblies	Fans in the S	Stands/Unified S	ports Day				
Fundraising Activity	Athlete	Leadership Progra	ms (i.e. Unified	Global Messeng	ers)				
Please list the approximate numb month in Unify Georgia per comp	=	tners, coaches, pa	arents, and othe	er volunteers inv	olved this				
<b>Unified Sports Competition</b>	Athletes	Partners	Coaches	Parents _	Other				
Unified Sports Recreation	Athletes	Partners	Coaches	Parents _	Other				
Inclusive Young Athletes	Athletes	Partners	Coaches	Parents _	Other				
Professional Development	Athletes	Partners	Coaches	Parents _	Other				
Leadership Club	Athletes	Partners	Coaches	Parents _	Other				
Get Into It	Athletes	Partners	Coaches	Parents _	Other				
Respect Campaign	Athletes	Partners	Coaches	Parents _	Other				
Rallies/Forums/Assemblies	Athletes	Partners	Coaches	Parents _	Other				
Fans in the Stands	Athletes	Partners	Coaches	Parents _	Other				
Unified Sports Days	Athletes	Partners	Coaches	Parents _	Other				
Fundraising Activity	Athletes	Partners	Coaches	Parents _	Other				
Athlete Leadership Program	Athletes	Partners	Coaches	Parents _	Other				

Any other comments or concerns?



## **Unify Georgia End-Year Final Report/Evaluation**

Please complete as much information as you can to ensure that we have enough statistical data to formulate the processes needed to help you and other programs in the coming years.

1-Name of liaison filling out evaluation
2-Name of school/agency/program.
<b>3</b> -Please circle the ones that describe you. Teacher, Para-Pro, Administrator, Local Coordinator, Coach, Parent, Partner, Volunteer, Athlete.
<b>4</b> -Component(s) of Unify Georgia completed. Circle one or more. Unified Sports, Unified Sports Recreation, Young Athletes Inclusive Program, Unified/Inclusive Leadership Clubs, Get Into It, Respect Campaigns, Rallies/Forums/Assemblies, Fans in the Stands/Unified Sports Day
5-Number of athletes (Special Olympics athletes) involved.
6-Number of Partners (Non Special Olympics athletes) involved.
<b>7</b> -Number of Parents involved
8-Number of volunteers involved
<b>9</b> -Did you receive enough help and guidance from the SOGA Staff? YES or NO. If NO what help or guidance would have made this a better experience?
10-Was your program able to raise enough funds for equipment, uniforms or supplies? YES or No.  Was there a need for more funding and if so why and how much?



(Unify Georgia Final End-Year Report/Evaluation Continued)

school/agency/program involved in Unify Georgia? YES or NO. If NO how can we keep you and your school/agency/program involved?
13-What barriers did you experience at your school/agency/program in getting Unify Georgia started and finished?
14-What positive experiences did your athletes/partners/parents/volunteers have while participating in Unify Georgia?
15-Did your athletes/partners train in a specific sport? YES or No. If YES, what sport?
16-Did your athletes/partners attend or compete at local, area or state games? YES or NO. If YES, which ones?
17-Did the final results of this program meet your expectations? YES or NO. If NO why?
18-Any suggestions?



### **Timeline for Events and Reporting**

## August 2016

М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## September 2016

М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

#### **Reminders & Events:**

**8/8** – This date marks the beginning of the minimum number of weeks to be training for the State Fall Games in October. Training for the State Horse Show should have started no later than July 25th (minimum 10 weeks of training required).

**8/19** - Mini Sports Camp opportunity in Thomasville, GA.

Contact <a href="mailto:david.crawford@specialolympicsga.org">david.crawford@specialolympicsga.org</a> for registration information. (Professional Development)

**8/26 – 8/28** – State Masters Bowling Tournament (Warner Robins, GA). Unified Team Bowling takes place at this State Event.

**8/31** – Optional Unify Georgia statistical reporting due to SOGA staff responsible for your program.

#### **Reminders & Events:**

**9/10** – State Softball/Bocce Invitational (Douglasville, GA) & State Softball Invitational (Albany, GA) (Unified Sports Competition)

**9/16 – 9/17** – Mini Sports Camp opportunity in Evans County, GA.

Contact <u>david.crawford@specialolympicsga.org</u> for registration information. (Professional Development)

**9/24** – State Softball Invitationals (Cumming, GA & LaGrange, GA) (Unified Sports Competition)

**9/30** – Due date for the signed letter of commitment and signed Liaison Job Description.



## Timeline for Events and Reporting continued

## October 2016

M	Т	W	Т	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

#### **Reminders & Events:**

10/7 – 10/9 – State Fall Games & State Horse Show (Gainesville, GA). Unified Softball, Unified Bocce, Unified Golf, Unified Cycling & Unified Drill Team (Horse Show) take place at these two State Events.

**10/31** – Optional Unify Georgia statistical reporting due to SOGA staff responsible for your program.

## November 2016

М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

#### **Reminders & Events:**

**11/11** – Mini Sports Camp opportunity in Albany, GA.

Contact <a href="mailto:david.crawford@specialolympicsga.org">david.crawford@specialolympicsga.org</a> for registration information. (Professional Development)

**11/12** – State Volleyball Invitational (Thomasville, GA) (Unified Sports Competition)

**11/21** – This date marks the beginning of the minimum number of weeks to be training for the State Indoor Winter Games in January 2017.

**11/30** – Optional Unify Georgia statistical reporting due to SOGA staff responsible for your program.



## Timeline for Events and Reporting continued

## December 2016

S
4
11
18
25

#### **Reminders & Events:**

**12/2** – State Basketball Invitational (LaGrange, GA) (Unified Sports Competition)

12/15 – Deadline for Unify Georgia Program's mid-year reporting and statistical data from all Unify Georgia components conducted for the first half of the year. (Mandatory)

## January 2017

M	Т	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
			l			l

#### **Reminders & Events:**

1/20 – 1/22 – State Indoor Winter Games & Southeast Powerlifting (Marietta, GA)
Unified Basketball, Unified Artistic Gymnastics,
Unified Bowling, Unified Floor Hockey & Unified
Powerlifting take place at this State Event.

**1/31** – Optional Unify Georgia statistical reporting due to SOGA staff responsible for your program.



## Timeline for Events and Reporting continued

## February 2017

М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

#### **Reminders & Events:**

**2/28** – Optional Unify Georgia statistical reporting due to SOGA staff responsible for your program.

## March 2017

М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

#### **Reminders & Events:**

**3/1 – 3/3 –** The first week of March is National Awareness week for Special Olympics. The National R-Word Day will take place during this time and this is a great opportunity for Unify Georgia Programs to conduct the Spread the Word to End the Word/Respect Campaign component. Please contact your SOGA staff responsible for your program for more information.

**3/20** – This date marks the beginning of the minimum number of weeks to be training for the State Summer Games in May 2017.

**3/31** – Optional Unify Georgia statistical reporting due to SOGA staff responsible for your program.



## **Timeline for Events and Reporting continued**

## April 2017

М	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

#### **Reminders & Events:**

**4/30** – Optional Unify Georgia statistical reporting due to SOGA staff responsible for your program.

## May 2017

M	Т	W	Т	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

#### **Reminders & Events:**

**5/19 – 5/21 –** State Summer Games (Emory University, Atlanta, GA) Unified Aquatics, Unified Athletics, Unified Flag Football, Unified Rhythmic Gymnastics, Unified Soccer, Unified Table Tennis, Unified Tennis & Unified Volleyball take place at this State Event.

**5/31** – Optional Unify Georgia statistical reporting due to SOGA staff responsible for your program.



## **Timeline for Events and Reporting continued**

## June 2017

М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

#### **Reminders & Events:**

**6/30** – Optional Unify Georgia statistical reporting due to SOGA staff responsible for your program.

## July 2017

М	Т	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

#### **Reminders & Events:**

**7/14** – Deadline for Unify Georgia Program's endyear reporting and Statistical data from all Unify Georgia components conducted for the 2016-2017 year. (Mandatory)



## Overall Goal of Unify Georgia

The overall goal of **Unify Georgia** is to continue providing Special Olympics Georgia programs with educational resources and programming to further develop their existing program, while promoting awareness of Special Olympics and unifying their community. Special Olympics strives to create a better world by fostering the acceptance and inclusion of all people, and **Unify Georgia** is an avenue in fulfilling this vision. **Unify Georgia** can inspire people in the community to open their hearts to a broader world of human talents and potential. The power and joy of sport, changes focus to what our athletes **CAN** do, not what they can't. The components of **Unify Georgia** bring this vision to light and provides programs the framework to better the lives of all people within their community!





## **Resources/Contact Information**

Please utilize the Special Olympics Georgia staff contact list below to find out more information about Unify Georgia.

David Crawford – Senior Sports & Program Manager & Unify Georgia Director

e. david.crawford@specialolympicsga.org

p. (229) 292-5143

Responsible for programs in South Central Georgia.

Alison Still - Volunteer & Event Manager

e. alison.still@specialolympicsga.org p. (229) 712-9973

Responsible for programs in Middle Georgia (Warner Robins).

Paul McNeil – Volunteer & Event Manager

e. paul.mcneil@specialolympicsga.org p. (770) 414-9390 ext. 116

Responsible for programs in Middle Georgia (Macon).

Taylor Fulp - Sports & Program Manager

e. taylor.fulp@specialolympicsga.org p. (229) 834-8277

Responsible for programs in Southwest Georgia

*Liz Smith* – Sports & Program Manager

e. liz.smith@specialolympicsga.org p. (229) 256-1323

Responsible for programs in Southeast Georgia.

Matt Sheridan – Director of Program Services

e. <u>matthew.sheridan@specialolympicsga.org</u> p. (770) 414-9390 ext. 119

Kelli Britt – Senior Sports & Coach Education Manager

e. kelli.britt@specialolympicsga.org p. (770) 414-9390 ext. 122

Responsible for programs in Northeast Georgia.

Alex Schwartz – Sports & Program Manager

e. <u>alex.schwartz@specialolympicsga.org</u> p. (770) 414-9390 ext. 113

Responsible for programs in Metro-Atlanta.

Devin Dowell – Sports & Program Manager

e. <u>devin.dowell@specialolympicsga.org</u> p. (770) 414-9390 ext. 116

Responsible for programs in Northwest Georgia, West Georgia & East Georgia.

#### **Special Olympics Georgia's Social Media Outlets:**

Facebook - www.facebook.com/specialolympicsga/ (Special Olympics Georgia)

Instagram - <a href="https://www.instagram.com/specialolympicsga/">www.instagram.com/specialolympicsga/</a> (@specialolympicsga/

Twitter - www.twitter.com/sogachampions (@SOGAchampions)

Snapchat – s.olympicsga (on your mobile device)