



STUDENT ELIGIBILITY AND CLEARANCE



AIA Unified Sports Team Roles

- Unified Athlete – a student *with* an intellectual/developmental disability
- Unified Partner – a student *without* an intellectual/developmental disability

Unified Athlete Eligibility

- Any enrolled student *with an intellectual disability* who meets both the Unified Athlete eligibility statement below and all requirements of the AIA and school district's athletic clearance policy is eligible to participate as a Unified Athlete in AIA Unified Sports.
- A person is considered to have intellectual disabilities for purposes of determining his or her eligibility to participate in Unified Sports® if that person satisfies any one of the following requirements:
 1. The person has been identified by an agency or professional as having intellectual disabilities as determined by their localities; or
 2. The person has a cognitive delay, as determined by standardized measures such as intelligent quotient or "IQ" testing or other measures which are generally accepted within the professional community in that accredited program's state as being a reliable measurement of the existence of a cognitive delay.

Unified Partner Eligibility

- Any enrolled student who meets all requirements of the AIA and school district's athletic clearance policy is eligible to participate as a Unified Partner in AIA Unified Sports.
- Any student competing in an individual sport (i.e. Swim, Track & Field) **IS** eligible to participate as a Unified Partner in the same sport, **EXCEPT** during the following circumstances –
 - i. Any competition at which the student is attempting to qualify for advancement to a state-level competition in any non-Unified event.
 - ii. Any state-level competition at which the student is competing in any non-Unified events.
- Any student competing in a team sport (i.e. Flag Football and Basketball) at the **varsity level** is **NOT** eligible to compete as a Unified Partner in the **same sport**.
 - i. Example – A varsity soccer player **CANNOT** compete on the Unified Soccer team
 - ii. Example – A varsity soccer player **CAN** compete on a Unified Basketball team.



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AIA Student Athletic Clearance Policy

- All participants in interscholastic activities must be in compliance with all student eligibility rules. The student eligibility rules are enumerated and presented in detail in Article 15 of the AIA Bylaws.
- **Physical Examination Rule (Article 15.7)** states a student shall not be allowed to practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until there is a record of a preparticipation physical examination on file with the school. The preparticipation physical examination forms provided by the AIA include three parts:
 1. Annual Preparticipation Physical Evaluation – To be completed and signed by the parent or legal guardian and the student athlete. This form must also be signed by the examining medical provider. (Form 15.7-A)
 2. Annual Preparticipation Physical Examination – To be completed and signed by the examining medical provider. (Form 15.7-B)
 3. Annual Preparticipation Acknowledgement – To be completed and signed by parent or guardian and student athlete. (Form 15.7-C).
- **Parental or Legal Guardian Consent Rule (Article 15.8)** states that parental or legal guardian consent is required before a student can be eligible to practice or compete in interscholastic competition. All students shall have appropriate permission in which the parent or legal guardian authorized participation on file with the school.

School / District Athletic Clearance Policy

- Unified Athletes and Unified Partners are to be treated and recognized as AIA high school athletes, and will be expected to adhere to any and all district/school policies and procedures regarding student athletic participation and clearance.
- If a district has a “Pay to Play” policy, it is the district’s choice to charge a participation fee for AIA Unified Sports.
- Unified Athletes and Unified Partners are subjected to a grade check as defined by their district/ and/or school’s athletic academic eligibility policy.