

Partners Club

The Partners Club® is a unique Special Olympics school based program that brings together students with and without intellectual disabilities, through sports skills training and competition (Unified Sports®) on a regular basis. This club offers other social and recreational opportunities as well for members to spend additional time together. Student members need not be varsity or junior varsity athletes, but may have a particular career or sport interest. A Partners Club® should be a sanctioned school club; the meeting schedule and format follows school club policies and procedures. Clubs have a faculty advisor and officers who network with administration, as well as build a partnership with the physical education and special education departments.

Why start a partners club?

Partners Club helps provide a place where students of all abilities can come together and interact and have fun together. Partners Club really helps to unite a school and highlight the abilities of everyone!

How do I get people to join?

Well, sports are normally a good way to get students involved, so reach out to sports teams and see if any of their members would like to join. Pizza or other foods are also a nice way to get people to come to a meeting.

How would we pay for our events?

Talk to your school and your state Special Olympics program to see if they have money that they could use to help you start your club. You could also make one of your activities a fundraiser. For bigger events, there are youth grants that Special Olympics Project UNIFY offers, and you can download the application on this website.

How do we organize Sports events?

Your Partners Club might want to organize into a unified sports team. Unified sports teams bring together youth with and without intellectual disabilities to play together. Contact your state Special Olympics office to see if there are other Unified Sports teams in your area that you can compete against.