



**TITLE:** Unified Partner

### **GOAL/IMPACT**

Special Olympics Nebraska's (SONE) vision is to promote acceptance, inclusion, and well-being for people with intellectual disabilities through sports. Through the power of sports, our athletes discover new strengths and abilities, skills, and success - on the playing field and in life. Unified partners compete alongside our athletes. They help promote true inclusion by showing our athletes what it means to be included. They will train and compete alongside our athletes on the same playing field.

### **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Unified partners train and compete alongside our athletes on the same team
- Serve as mentors to our athletes and lead by example
- Knowledge and/or experience in the sport you are interested in competing is preferred but not required
- Accompany team to regional and state competitions
- Create and maintain a positive and fun environment for all athletes

### **TRAINING & SUPPORT**

- Training will be provided by the delegation's coaches
- Will receive continual support and direction from SONE as season progresses

### **COMMITMENT**

- Unified partners provide 2+ hours per week, throughout 8-10 week season, plus 1-2 weekends for competitions
- Practice locations and competitions will be provided upon team placement

### **QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS & REQUIREMENTS**

- Minimum age 8 years old- must complete Unified Partner Application and Athlete Code of Conduct
- For those 16 years and older- must complete Unified Partner Application, Athlete Code of Conduct, Protective Behaviors (16+), and background check (19+)
  - Recertification required every 3 years and when partner turns 19
- Ability to be physically capable during practice and competition
- Commitment to the mission and philosophy of SONE

### **BENEFITS**

- Direct interaction and impact on SONE athletes
- Help build an atmosphere that promotes working together to achieve our vision of acceptance, inclusion, and wellbeing for people with intellectual disabilities through sports
- Experience enthusiasm, joy, and personal achievement alongside our athletes