



## MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT GUIDELINES

The concept of *Meaningful Involvement* is an effort to optimize participation by all players, athletes and partners, in Unified Sports® competition. The Unified Sports® Meaningful Involvement Guidelines address *Player Dominance*. Teams will be divisioned based upon the abilities of a team's best players and other factors as noted below. The divisions will be separated into two groups: Unified Competitive and Player Development.

### TEAM EVALUATION & DIVISIONING CRITERIA

- A. *Meaningful Involvement* will be evaluated for all players (athletes AND partners) competing at their highest level of competency.
- B. Team assessments will be generally based upon the team's reasonably balanced skill level and their ability to work together and score.
- C. The management team will take every opportunity during pool play or divisioning to apprise coaches when they appear to be violating the *Meaningful Involvement Guidelines*.

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For all SOVA State Championships, we are asking coaches to review these Guidelines with their team members and reinforce the Guidelines as needed. An enforcement system of these guidelines is not currently in place but **MAY** be applied in future years.

**PLAYER DOMINANCE:** It is Player Dominance anytime throughout the course of a game when:

1. Scoring opportunities as a result of designed plays are frequently employed by specific individuals (example: partners only).
2. Players consistently do not utilize teammates, ignore teammates, bypass teammates, etc. while attempting to penetrate offensively or playing defense.
3. A player consistently dominates individually on either the offensive or defensive end of the field.
4. Players consistently have very limited opportunities to handle the ball while their team is in control of play.
5. Players repeatedly fail to pass/throw the ball to open teammates for an obvious scoring opportunity or to make a defensive play.
6. In the last minutes of competition, the participation of identified players is noticeably increased to the exclusion of teammates.
7. Coaches do not engage in tactics and strategies to eliminate player dominance or develop methods for meaningful involvement.

IT IS NOT PLAYER DOMINANCE when both athletes and partners score and play defense and all players have the opportunity to display their individual skills.

#### Important Notes:

- \* Player dominance and meaningful involvement may include or exclude both athletes and partners.
- \* The officials on the field/court do not monitor or determine meaningful involvement. However, they may be asked for input during dead-balls, halftime, between innings or at the conclusion of games.