

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between  
Special Olympics International  
and  
International School Sport Federation

**Special  
Olympics**



**WHEREAS**, the ISF, the International School Sport Federation is a global organization whose main mission is to educate through sport by organizing international championships in different sporting disciplines and by encouraging contests between school students with a view to promoting better mutual understanding; and

**WHEREAS**, the ISF is an organization committed to promoting and encouraging the development of school sport in all countries through the official bodies in charge; and

**WHEREAS**, under the structure of ISF, student athletes offer inspiration to all citizens as symbols of excellence and achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, when student athletes from different abilities, cultures and nationalities compete together, any differences of opinion, belief and territory are set aside in favor of a common pursuit and appreciation of sport.

**NOW**, therefore, ISF hereby proclaims its unanimous support and affinity for Special Olympics and all its athletes whose extraordinary courage represents the true spirit of sportsmanship

and is ready to explore a partnership with Special Olympics with an emphasis on opportunities to: demonstrate and promote the Special Olympics Unified Sports program which composes teams of individuals with and without an Intellectual Disability (ID) on inclusive sports teams in order to use sport as a means for overcoming misunderstanding, fears and stigmas and creating a path for friendship and social inclusion off the playing field while enabling more students with and without ID to experience the benefits of sports participation regardless of their ability level

*International School Sport Federation*

Mr. Laurent Petrynka,  
President

**WHEREAS**, the mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and competition across 200 countries throughout the world for children and adults with intellectual disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the world Special Olympics athletes offer inspiration to all citizens through their accomplishments and dedication; and

**WHEREAS**, the spirit of Special Olympics – skills, courage, acceptance and joy – transcends boundaries of geography, nationality, political philosophy, gender, age, race or religion; and

**WHEREAS**, Special Olympics Unified Sports, joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team to promote social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences.

**NOW**, therefore, Special Olympics accepts the unanimous support of the ISF and conveys this to all its athletes and supporters with the purpose of enhancing school sport for all

and is ready to explore a partnership with the International School Sport Federation with an emphasis on opportunities to: demonstrate and promote the Special Olympics Unified Sports program which composes teams of individuals with and without an Intellectual Disability (ID) on inclusive sports teams in order to use sport as a means for overcoming misunderstanding, fears and stigmas and creating a path for friendship and social inclusion off the playing field while enabling more students with and without ID to experience the benefits of sports participation regardless of their ability level; and is ready to promote the ISF's commitment to use sports to educate through sport and cultural exchange

*Special Olympics International*

Dr. Timothy Shriver,  
Chairman