

UNIFIED SOFTBALL - 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® Team 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 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*.

MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT GUIDELINES

For all SOVA State Championships, we are asking coaches to review these Guidelines with their team members and reinforce the Guidelines as needed. *Future tournaments* may adopt an enforcement system of these Guidelines.

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

The following is a list of examples (not limited to) which could lead to possible "dominant play" sanctions:

1. Player(s) consistently does not utilize teammates, ignores teammates, bypasses teammates, etc... while playing defense.
2. A player consistently dominates play over his or her teammates.
3. Player(s) consistently limits another player or players the opportunity to field, throw, catch, have an assist or put-out while on defense.
4. In the later innings of a game, the participation of identified players is noticeably increased to the exclusion of teammates.
5. 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 runs and play defense in the field and all players have the opportunity to display their individual skills.

Important Notes:

- Meaningful involvement player dominance guidelines apply to both athletes and partners.
- The officials on the field do not monitor or determine meaningful involvement. However, they may be asked for input between innings and games.