

FANQUEST PLAYBOOK



Special Olympics
**Unified Champion
Schools**



U.S. Office of Special
Education Programs

WHY DO WE NEED HIGH SCHOOLS TO BE SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE ?

Creating an inclusive, educational atmosphere that insures every student becomes a healthy, productive and ethical individual is a central focus of school education.

Team sports bring people together. Unified Sports® provide opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities to participate in a variety of fitness and sports activities – on the same team.

Accomplishing this requires intentional planning and implementation, strong collaborations and initiatives that provide equitable and quality opportunities for all.

FanQuest is an exhilarating inclusive basketball game that heightens disability awareness and promotes respect. Students pack the stands to watch two Unified basketball teams comprised of students with and without intellectual disabilities compete. Fun contests, entertainment and inclusive messaging are interspersed throughout the game to keep fans engaged.

The goal: to fill the gym with fans and make the game a unique experience for participating teams, to include officials, an announcer and cheerleaders. In future

84%

84% of students generally regard the experiences they've had with a **Unified Sports** as a **positive turning point in their lives**.

87%

87% of students learn that **standing up** for something they **believe is the right thing to do**.

85%

Students who are engaged in programming develop valuable pro-social skills. The majority of schools report that students who learn their emotions and attitudes can affect others.

82%

82% of students feel that they are able to change their schools for the better.

GETTING STARTED

1. Secure a faculty champion
2. Secure your principal and activity director's support
3. Recruit your school's Unified basketball team and invite another team from a nearby school to participate
4. Schedule the event and a make-up date in case of inclement weather
5. Form an inclusive student leadership team comprised of students with and without intellectual disabilities to plan and execute the event





SAMPLE SCHEDULE

- 6:00 PM** Doors open for pre-game activities if offered
- 6:40 PM** Teams warm-up on the court
- 6:50 PM** Pre-game messaging and optional entertainment/contest
- 6:52 PM** Opening Ceremony
- 7:02 PM** Team introductions – either starters or the entire team
- 7:05 PM** Game begins (four 10-minute running clock quarters)
- End of 1st Quarter** Messaging and optional entertainment/contest
- Halftime** Entertainment (cheerleaders, dance team, etc.)
- Choose to Include/Spread the Word: Inclusion raffle drawing if offered
 - Contest if offered
 - Team warm-ups
- End of 3rd Quarter** Messaging and optional entertainment/contest
- 8:00 PM** Game ends – messaging and optional entertainment/contest
- 8:05 PM** Awards



PROMOTING THE EVENT

- Recruit students with and without intellectual disabilities.
 - Ensure there is a meaningful role for each student who is interested in participating (e.g., player, assistant coach, team manager, cheerleader, announcer, etc.)
- Create flyers, hang posters, make morning announcements and include the event on your school's website.
- Send a press release to local media outlets.



SET-UP & PERSONNEL NEEDS

Lobby Set-Up:

- Decorate lobby with balloons, welcome signs, etc.
- Set-up lobby with tables and chairs as needed

Gym Set-Up:

- Decorate one side of the bleachers with balloons, posters, etc. in your school's colors
- Decorate the other side with balloons, posters, etc. in the visiting team's school colors
- Set-up gym for a high school basketball game
 - Scorer's Table: tables, chairs, scoreboard, microphone, music
 - Team Benches: chairs, water cooler, cups, towels
 - Court: wireless microphone, basketball, contest supplies if needed

It takes many people to run a successful FanQuest. Work with existing clubs and game personnel at your school to fill positions.

Scorer's Table and Game Volunteers

- Court manager oversees all activities in the gym
- Game announcer at the score table
- Scoreboard operator
- Scoreboard operator assistant
- Contest announcer on the court (optional)
- Contest assistants (optional)
- Bench assistants to greet teams, serve water, get ice, etc.
- Award presenters at the end of the game

Skilled Volunteers

- Athletic trainer
- 2 – 3 certified basketball officials



OPTIONAL PRE-GAME ACTIVITIES

Concessions:

- Schools may sell concessions if they wish. Consider giving student groups such as the Unified Club or special education classes the opportunity to sell concessions and other souvenirs commemorating the event.

Olympic Town:

- Optional pre-game entertainment can include carnival-style games, bingo and table games.

Spread the Word or Choose To Include Pledge Drive:

- Every student who signs the Spread the Word or Choose To Include pledge banner receives a sticker. Optional: each person also receives a raffle ticket and is eligible to win a prize during halftime. Special Olympics Virginia will provide a





GAME ON!



Pre-Game and Game Announcements

- Sponsor announcements
- Inclusion messaging
- Contest opportunities

Opening Ceremony

- **Kick-off FanQuest with an Opening Ceremony. Special Olympics will provide a sample script**
- **The host school recruits the Opening Ceremony participants.**
- Welcome by a Unified pair (a student with and without an intellectual disability)
- Welcome by the host school's principal or the school system's superintendent
- Presentation of the colors by the Knights of Columbus, JrROTC or similar group (optional)
- National Anthem or Pledge of Allegiance led by student(s)
- Special Olympics oath led by one student with an intellectual disability and one without
- Team introductions

Game Entertainment

- **Make the event fun by interspersing entertainment throughout the game**
- Recruit cheerleaders to support both teams and pump up the crowd during the game. Consider forming an inclusive cheerleading squad comprised of students with and without intellectual disabilities
- Recruit your school's dance team, step team or other groups to provide game entertainment
- Recruit your school's pep band, marching band or drumline to provide music during the game. Consider inviting the visiting team's pep band as well

ENTERTAINMENT

- If your event is well established and you are ready to add contests, get contest ideas by searching the internet for 30-second and 60-second games.
 - Recruit 4 people to select contestants and run contests.
 - Contact nearby colleges/universities and ask to borrow contest supplies from athletic departments or make supplies at your school.
 - If you wish, secure contest prizes such as restaurant coupons, gift cards and merchandise from local businesses. One way to keep fans engaged during contests is to distribute restaurant coupons to an entire section of fans if the contestant from their section wins. Distribute prizes immediately after each contest.

Entertainment Ideas

- **T-shirts:** Cheerleaders throw shirts into the stands during time-outs and at half-time. Need 20 – 50 t-shirts rolled tightly and secured with rubber bands.
- **Clown Race:** Contestants race around the court to different piles of clown clothing and accessories (clown costume, inflatable shoes, clown wig, clown nose and clown sunglasses). The first person dressed as a clown to pick-up and beep the clown horn at the finish line wins. Need 2 – 4 sets of clown clothing and accessories plus a clown horn.
- **Build a Burrito:** Two contestants race to fill their burrito. The burrito is a round cloth laid flat on the floor at the start line. Burrito ingredients are represented by colored pom poms; brown for meat, orange for cheese, and green for lettuce. Each set of ingredients is laid in a line on the floor about 20' apart. The contestants run and pick-up each burrito ingredient one at a time and return it to the tortilla. The first contestant that retrieves all ingredients and roles themselves in the burrito wins. Need two sets of burrito supplies.
- **Traditional Shoot-Out:** Two contestants start with a basketball at the free throw line at opposite ends of the court. When the horn blows, each contestant dribbles towards their basket and attempts a lay-up. After making a lay-up, each contestant shoots a foul shot. After making a foul shot, each contestant shoots a 3-point shot. Whoever makes all 3 baskets first wins.
- **Hula Hoop Challenge:** Two teams consisting of ten people hold hands. A hula hoop for each team starts at one end and must pass along the chain while teammates continue to hold hands. Whichever team successfully gets the hula hoop to the opposite end of the line first wins. Need 42 hula hoops.
- **Slam Dunk Exhibition:** Invite students who can dunk a basketball to participate in fun demonstration of their skills.

POST GAME ACTIVITIES



- Award ceremony for teams
 - Present Special Olympics Unified Sports® 1st place ribbons to players on the winning team and 2nd place ribbons to players on the other team, or:
 - Present Special Olympics Unified Sports® participation ribbons to all players
- Continue Olympic Town activities in the cafeteria or hold a celebration dance
- Schedule a wrap-up meeting to evaluate the event and make plans to improve FanQuest next year.



RESOURCES

- **Uniforms - Special Olympics Virginia will provide uniforms for school system's launching a Unified Basketball League.**
- **Choose To Include - Special Olympics has long been a movement for people with intellectual disabilities. Today, it is also a movement by them. The Choose to Include campaign reminds students that when we give others the chance to fulfill their dreams, everyone wins. Invite students to take the pledge and Choose to Include. Order supplies at <https://tinyurl.com/ChooseToIncludeVA> to launch a Choose to Include campaign at your school.**
- **Spread the Word - Spread the Word: Inclusion - Take a stand against discriminatory words and actions and create a more inclusive world. An inclusive world can be created through individual acts of inclusion – finding and welcoming those who have been left out, being a teammate, becoming a friend. That's why we are asking everyone to pledge to include and to commit to an act of inclusion in their school or community. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/spreadthewordva> to order your free supplies today and <https://www.spreadtheword.global/> for additional resources.**
- **Visit Unified Sports officials training at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNVli3NsezY&feature=youtu.be>.**
- **Unified Sports® - Visit <http://specialolympicsva.org/programs/unified-sports> for Unified Sports® information and resources. Visit the Unified Sports online course at <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/36000/coaching-unified-sports>.**
- **Unified Champion Schools – Visit <http://specialolympicsva.org/programs/school-based-programs> for Unified Champion Schools information and resources.**