



Unified Doubles Summer Series

The Charlotte Tennis Association and the Special Olympics Mecklenburg County Tennis Program are partnering to create a Unified Doubles Summer Series. We are reaching out to offer Charlotte area tennis facilities an opportunity to engage their members and host a Unified Doubles Summer Series play day!

What Is Unified Doubles:

In Unified Doubles, a player with an intellectual disability (a Special Olympics athlete) partners with a player without an intellectual disability (a Unified partner), to compete together against similarly paired opponents. The athlete and Unified partner work together as teammates, keeping the rally going as long as possible and keeping the focus on teamwork and fun (not just winning)!

Goal of Unified Doubles:

Unified Doubles promotes inclusion and fosters community, as well as a deeper understanding of individuals with intellectual disabilities. The goal of Unified Doubles is to allow Special Olympics athletes to achieve their maximum potential in an inclusive setting.

Hosting a Unified Doubles Summer Series Event Requires:

- Choosing an event date between May 17 and August 28
- Optimal times are Saturday morning 9:00-10:30, or any weekday evening 7:00-8:30
- Providing 6 tennis courts for 1.5 Hours
- Designating a Tennis Professional or member to serve as facility representative
- Recruiting a minimum of 12 adult members to participate as Unified partners
- Inviting members to observe Unified Doubles event
- Creating a welcoming environment
- Providing snacks and beverages (optional)

Support from Special Olympics (SO) and Charlotte Tennis Association:

- A SO coach will facilitate all on-court activities
- A SO coach will hold a short instructional meeting with unified partners
- Supplying messaging to help recruit members as Unified partners
- Supplying messaging to invite all members to attend/observe the event

Unified Doubles Play Format / Run of Show:

- The SO coach will create Unified doubles teams and assign them to courts
- All matches start together and play one 10-12 minute timed set
- No-Ad scoring is used
- Most games won when time is called determines winners
- Winning team moves up one court, losers move down, and they switch partners
- The SO coach is the official timekeeper and starts/stops each 10-12 minute match

For more information contact Jeff Beard at (704)-604-1601 or jibeard20@gmail.com