



Special Olympics Unified Movement in Sarawak

22 January 2021



Figure 1-Unified Floorball coach Farrel Choo, 1st left.

Special Olympics Sarawak has kicked off Unified Sports in year 2015. Currently we are playing Unified Soccer, Unified Bocce, Unified Badminton and the newest introduced unified sport is Unified Floorball. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many physical activities are not running currently. “We hope to return back to action once the COVID 19 pandemic is under full

control” said Mr. Farrell Choo, the Unified Floorball coach for Malaysia, who is based in Miri, Sarawak.

Some other unified movement plans In SO Sarawak will be implemented once the situation permits which include working with schools with Special Education Integration Programs in Sibü to become Unified Champion School. The Special Olympics Unified Champion School program intentionally promotes meaningful social inclusion among the community of the school. This is done with increased frequency and opportunity, the bringing together of students with and without intellectual disabilities, thus creating a more accepting school environment.

About Special Olympics Unified Movement

Special Olympics is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences. Unified Sports joins people with (Athlete) and without (Unified Partner) intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.

That makes practices more fun and games more challenging and exciting for all. The core principle of Unified Sport is meaningful involvement. It means that every player is given a chance to contribute to the success of the team through their unique skills and qualities. About 1.4 million people worldwide take part in Unified Sports, breaking down stereotypes about people with intellectual disabilities in a really fun way.

At Special Olympics competitions, there is a very unique process called divisioning. It ensures that all athletes are given an equal chance to participate, perform and be recognised for doing their best. Divisioning allows all athletes participating in any Special Olympics Games the opportunity to compete on an equal playing field. It is a fundamental rule which matches athletes up with others of the same gender, around the same age, and most importantly of the same competitive ability. This type of competition-level matching makes Special Olympics events even more exciting and meaningful for both athletes and spectators by ensuring competitions are fair and empowering.

About Special Olympics Sarawak

Special Olympics Sarawak is accredited by Special Olympics Malaysia as an official state program for the Special Olympics movement.

Special Olympics Sarawak officially registered with the Sarawak Registrar of Societies on 2 August 2001 and Sport Commission in 2012. Special Olympics programs are currently available in Kuching, Miri and Sibü with plans to spread Special Olympics to all regions of Sarawak.

Games introduced are Ten-Pin Bowling, Bocce, Floor Hockey, Athletics (Track & Field) and Aquatics (swimming), football and badminton.