

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE  
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE**

NFHS Coach Education Offers Free Online Course –  
“Coaching Special Olympics Unified Sports®”

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (October 16, 2012) — The NFHS Coach Education Program is offering another free online course on [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com) to assist coaches who are involved in Special Olympics Unified Sports programs.

“Coaching Special Olympics Unified Sports®” provides techniques and tools for coaches who work with these programs, where Special Olympics athletes with intellectual disabilities and individuals without intellectual disabilities (partners) train and compete together as a team.

This new course introduces coaches to another side of coaching, one in which goals, motivations and even the meaning of winning are just as unique as the position itself. With an introduction by former NFL quarterback Kurt Warner and his wife, Brenda, this course strives to help in the understanding and implementation of the most successful coaching strategies for Special Olympics Unified Sports athletes, as

well as incorporating the similar challenges – such as fostering teamwork and defining roles in line with abilities – that any coaching position would encounter.

The NFHS received assistance from the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA), Special Olympics North America, Special Olympics Arizona and Special Olympics, Inc. in developing this new online course.

“With the assistance of Special Olympics, the AIA and Special Olympics Arizona, we are pleased to be able to offer this course,” said Tim Flannery, NFHS director of coach education. “This program promotes social inclusion and participation for all students, and this course will be of tremendous help to coaches who serve in these programs.”

“The Special Olympics Unified Sports course is also appropriate for coaches in community-based Unified Sports programs, their coaches and players who have transitioned out of school,” said Annette Lynch, senior manager, sports partnerships, Special Olympics North America. “Social inclusion and maximum participation have no bounds.”

Special Olympics focuses on delivering high-quality year-round competition opportunities to children and adults with intellectual disabilities in a variety of sports in an inclusive culture that stresses athletic excellence, rewards determination, emphasizes health and celebrates personal achievement.

The NFHS Coach Education Program offers 31 online courses, including the two core courses – Fundamentals of Coaching and First Aid Health and Safety for Coaches. Coaching Special Olympics Unified Sports® is the seventh free course in the NFHS Coach Education Program. The NFHS also offers 13 sport-specific courses and nine elective courses.

All NFHS Coach Education Program courses are available at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com).

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*This press release was written by Shane Monaghan, graphic arts technician/editorial assistant in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department.*

#### **About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)**

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,000 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.6 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information about the NFHS, visit [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org). Access and order NFHS Coach Education courses at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com).

#### **About Special Olympics**

Special Olympics is an international organization that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sports everyday around the world. Through work in sports, health education and community building, Special Olympics is addressing inactivity, injustice, intolerance and social isolation by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities which leads to a more welcoming and inclusive society. Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics movement has grown from a few hundred athletes to nearly four million athletes in 170

countries. With the support of more than one million coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics is able to deliver 32 Olympic-type sports and more than 53,000 competitions throughout the year. Visit Special Olympics at [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org).

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