Unified Basketball
19-20 NJSIAA Rules and Regulations
Unified Basketball Topics

✓ Participation
✓ Team composition & eligibility
✓ Competition format
✓ Competition options & season dates
Participation

• All NJSIAA member schools are eligible to participate in Unified basketball
  • Schools must declare/register their Unified Sports team*
• Unified basketball team records will not impact varsity nor sub-varsity team records/standings
• Students may not participate in Unified basketball if they are participating in another strenuous sport during the same season
• Athletic Directors/Coaches should arrange matches against other teams participating in NJSIAA Unified basketball
  • A two-game minimum is required to compete in the post-season
  • 2020 Unified Basketball Contacts
Special Olympics Unified Sports® were created to give individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to train and compete in sports activities alongside their non-disabled peers.

• Teams should consist of about 12 players, approximately half Unified athletes and half Unified partners

• Teams must maintain a ratio of 3 athletes and 2 partners on the court at all times during competition; **must start games with 3:2**

• Teams should be co-ed
Principle of Meaningful Involvement

• **Meaningful Involvement**
  • Compete without causing undue risk of injury to themselves or others
  • Participate according to rules of competition
  • *Every player* has the ability and opportunity to contribute to the performance of the team

• **Things to Avoid**
  • Display superior sports skills without involving other teammates
  • Dominate most aspects of the game, especially during critical periods
  • Lower your level of ability and effort dramatically

• **Player dominance applies to both partners AND athletes.**
Eligibility

ALL students participating must have a valid school physical form on file

Athletes (students with intellectual/developmental disabilities)
- Students must be enrolled in high school, but may compete up to 21-years-old

Unified partners (students without intellectual disabilities)
- Students must meet all NJSIAA eligibility requirements
- Varsity level basketball players are NOT permitted to be Unified partners

Coaches
- Unified Sports coaches will follow the certification standards as outlined by the NJSIAA
- In addition, first year coaches are required to complete the free NFHS Coaching Unified Sports course
Competition Rules

• The ball used for game play will be a 29.5 inch basketball. (NFHS Rule)
• All games will consist of four, 8-minute quarters, running time with the exceptions listed below:
  • The clock stops ONLY on foul shots and timeouts.
  • During the last two minutes of the 4\textsuperscript{th} quarter, the clock stops on every whistle.
• If overtime is necessary, the period is 5 minutes, running time.
  • During the first 4 minutes of overtime, the clock stops ONLY on foul shots and timeouts.
  • During the last minute of overtime, the clock stops on every whistle.
  • Each team receives one additional full time out during the overtime.
  • Timing rules listed above are in effect for multiple overtime period if needed.
  • Time outs earned in previous overtime periods do not carry over into additional overtime periods.
Competition Format

• Teams are allotted five (5) timeouts per game.
  ▶ Two (2) thirty second timeouts
  ▶ Three (3) full (one minute) timeouts

• The bonus occurs in each half when a team picks up its 7th team foul.
  ▶ The bonus will always result in 2 free throws.
  ▶ Team fouls will be reset to zero at the beginning of the second half.

• During a free throw all players must wait until the ball hits the rim before they can step in.

• In a free throw situation; there are no substitutions permitted until after the first free throw.

• IAABO officials are used; therefore IAABO rules are used to govern basketball games.
Post Season - Sectionals

- All registered teams will automatically be entered into the post-season tournament. If your team **does not** want to participate in the post-season, **you must opt-out**.
  - Deadline: February 8th
  - Contact Al Stumpf: astumpf@njsiaa.org

- **February 22 – SOUTH SECTIONAL @ Moorestown HS**
- **February 29 – NORTH SECTIONAL @ TBD**
  - Teams not opting out of the tournament by the deadline will be divided into 2 sites based on geography; only have to attend one Sectional

- Coach to submit an information form and team roster prior to the event.
  - Teams should have a scorekeeper and keep a scorebook for every game played during the season and tournament
At each Sectional site there will be a Coaches Seeding Meeting the morning of the event.

The teams present will be DIVISIONED into 2 groups - Group A and Group B. This will be based on regular season records, level of competition and the coaches’ recommendations based on the skill levels of their top Unified lineup.

A round robin tournament will be played in each division.

  - Games will be 16 minute games (2 eight minute halves) – there will be 2 to 3 games played per team based on the number of teams in the division.

The number of games and the times may be adjusted.

**Locations are subject to change

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ROSTERS IS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8. Email Al @ astumpf@njsiaa.org

-No modifications or changes to roster will be allowed after 2/8/20
Post Season – Groups/TOC

- **March 7 – GROUP WEEKEND:** Will be at Hunterdon Central
- **March 14 – Snow Date:** Hunterdon Central

Based on the results of the Feb 22 & 29 games, the top two finishers from each Sectional will be seeded and will play a single elimination tournament in both the Group A and Group B Divisions.

- The Group B teams will play down to a Group B Champion – the winner of this bracket will receive a State Championship Group B Award and first place medals, the second place team will receive second place medals.

- The Group A teams will play a single elimination bracket – the top 2 teams in this bracket will play for the State Group A Championship at the **Tournament of Champions Game at Rutgers University on March 22.** The first place team will receive a State Championship Group A Award and first place medals, the second place team will receive second place medals.

- The number of games and the times may be adjusted.
Unified Cup (formerly Shriver Cup)

- **The Unified Cup** is now an invitational tournament for intramural basketball teams only.
- Schools may have both an intramural and interscholastic team, but the same team cannot compete in both.
- Students on your post-season roster are not eligible for the Unified Cup.
- April 5th at Princeton University
Important Online Links

• **19-20 Interscholastic Unified Registration** – Make sure to register!

• **Interscholastic Unified Sports Schedule** – SONJ Website

• **Unified Basketball Contact List** – Google Sheets

• **NFHS Coaching Unified Sports Course**

• **NJSIAA Coach Accreditation** – NJSIAA Coach Requirements
Contact Information

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Unified Cup Competition & general Unified Sports questions
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Questions?