

# Unified Basketball

2018 NJSIAA Rules and Regulations



*Special Olympics*  
New Jersey



# Unified Basketball Topics

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New Jersey*



**NSIAA**

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



# Participation



- All NJSIAA member schools are eligible to participate in Unified basketball
- 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

# Team Composition



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 may consist of up to 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
- Teams should be co-ed

# Principle of Meaningful Involvement

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- 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

# Eligibility

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**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

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- 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<sup>th</sup> 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

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- 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



# Registration & Season Dates

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- Opening date: Dec. 14
  - ▶ [Register](#) by this date if you plan to participate
- 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: Feb. 4
  - ▶ Contact Al Stumpf at [astumpf@njsiaa.org](mailto:astumpf@njsiaa.org)
- Unified-only sectional dates: Feb. 25-March 10
  - ▶ First round of sectionals will be a divisioning round where teams will be observed and then categorized into one of two divisions based on skill level and regular season record. A maximum of 8 teams will be selected and seeded within each division.
  - ▶ Second round of sectionals will be a one-day, single elimination tournament
- Tournament of Champions: March 17
  - ▶ Top D1 team from each sectional advances to Tournament of Champions
  - ▶ Top D2 team from each sectional will play final game during the traditional boys/girls semifinal.
- Locations: TBD

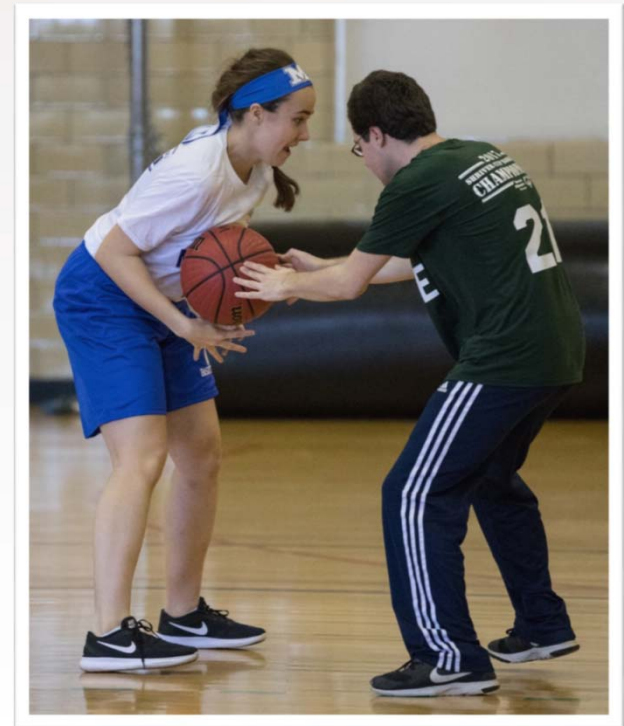
## Unified Cup (formerly Shriver Cup)

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- 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.
- Date TBD – typically first weekend in April



# Contact Information



## NJSIAA Unified Basketball Competitions

- Al Stumpf
  - [astumpf@njsiaa.org](mailto:astumpf@njsiaa.org)
  - 609-259-2776

## Unified Cup Competition & general Unified Sports questions

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