



Special Olympics
Unified Sports®



SPECIAL OLYMPICS DELAWARE

Unified Basketball Rules

DIAA regulations govern all Unified Sports. The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall govern all Special Olympics basketball competitions. NFHS rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Special Olympics Sports Rules. In such cases, the Special Olympics Sports Rules shall apply.

UNIFORMS

1. Each team must wear a uniform that follows the NFHS rules regarding uniforms.
2. ALL OTHER APPAREL (Headbands, wristbands, arm, leg, & knee sleeves, tights, compression shorts, ...).
One single solid color – all must match! Legal colors - black, white, beige, or color of the uniform jersey.

EQUIPMENT

- 1) A regulation **28.5** size basketball will be used for all games.
- 2) A protective mouthpiece must be worn at all times for players who have braces. Mouthpieces are strongly encouraged for all participants.

ROSTERS

- 1) Each team shall have an adult non-playing coach responsible for the line-up and conduct of the team during competition.
- 2) DIAA Eligibility Rosters are due the **first day of Unified Basketball competition**.
- 3) **Game Day Rosters** shall contain a proportionate number of athletes and Unified partners. The roster must contain a minimum of **5 (3 athletes and 2 Unified partners)** and a maximum of **15 (9 athletes and 6 Unified partners)** players.
 - a) Prior to the start of each game the coach is responsible for identifying the players eligible for that game on a roster card and for providing one (1) copy of the roster card to the officials and one (1) copy to the opposing coach. (See Sample Card on page 3)
- 4) Teams are required to have five players (3 athletes and 2 Unified partners) to start the game.
- 5) The lineup shall never exceed three (3) athletes and two (2) partners at any time.
 - a) Teams may continue with a minimum of four (4) players (minus one partner or athlete) due to disqualification or injury.
 - b) Unified Sports® teams are expected to comply with this rule without intervention by officials.
 - c) Failure to adhere to the required ratio shall result in a technical foul being assessed against the coach.
 - d) In addition to the technical foul, a violation may result in a forfeit based on the duration and impact of the violation as determined equitable by the officials:
 - i) More than one (1) forfeit or lineup violation in the season will lead to review by the Unified Sports Committee as to the path forward for the remainder of the season.
 - ii) Games that are forfeits may be played to the finish, but both schools must verify with the referee before play begins/continues that they are playing under forfeit.

UNIFIED SPORTS® EXPECTATIONS

- 1) Players shall not be identified or distinguished as athletes or partners in any way (e.g., announced on public address system, listed in program, different colored wrist bands, odd/even jersey numbers, etc.)
- 2) The coach is responsible for providing 2 copies of the team's lineup card.
- 3) Partners shall NOT dominate play.



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THE GAME

- 1) NFHS/DIAA Basketball rules will be employed for all Unified Sports Basketball games with the exception of the following:
 - a) Games will consist of six (6) minute quarters with three (3) minute overtime(s) if necessary.
 - b) There will be no full court defense. Once possession is established, teams may pick up defense once the ball crosses half court.
 - i) **Exception:** Teams can play full court defense in the last 2 minutes of each half and/or the last minute of overtime under the following conditions:
 - (1) Team that is ahead in score: Only if ahead by less than 15 points
 - (2) Team that is behind in score: Anytime
- 2) There are not any rules prohibiting Unified Partners from playing any aspect of the game. Coaches are encouraged to promote meaningful involvement (see DIAA Unified Sport regulations).

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

- 1) The officials may disqualify any player who participates in rough or unsportsmanlike play.
- 2) No coach, player, substitute, or team attendant shall behave in an unsportsmanlike manner. Examples are, but not limited to:
 - a) Unnecessarily rough play
 - b) Profanity
 - c) Disrespecting the officials
 - d) Failure to comply with equipment and uniform requirements
 - e) Taunting opponents
 - f) Any act in which a player attempts to focus attention on him/herself (e.g. spiking the ball, showboating, dancing following a good play)
 - g) Neither team shall commit any act which, in the opinion of the referee, tends to make a mockery of the game. (i.e.: Creating plays to find loopholes in rules)



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SAMPLE ROSTER CARD

COMMENT: The privacy of our athletes must be protected. Identifying or in any way distinguishing between athletes and partners beyond those responsible for the administration of the contest violates the values, philosophies and rules of Unified Sports® and may be a violation of federal law under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The purpose of providing line-up cards is solely for the administration of the contest in hopes of avoiding the potentially contentious and even sportsmanlike challenges based on the rules of Unified Basketball (maximum number on game roster, ratio of athletes/partners on the court). These challenges are often based on a harmful stereotype that students who have an intellectual disability cannot be excellent players.

The proper procedure for a coach who thinks that there might have been a violation of a rule by the opposing team based on a roster issue should 1.) Check the lineup card from the opposing team and then 2.) Quietly and respectfully request the official to confirm with the opposing coach. Game roster cards should be treated as confidential information and should not be shared with anyone else. Game roster cards should be returned to the coach after the contest or be appropriately discarded.

Unified Sports® Flag Football		
TEAM:		DATE:
COACH:		
#	PLAYERS NAME	A / P