



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. T-shirts, if being worn underneath the team uniform, must follow NFHS rules regarding undergarments.

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.
- 4) Teams are required to have five players (3 athletes and 2 Unified partners) to start the game.
- 5) During competition, in the game there shall always be three (3) athletes and two (2) Unified partners. The line-up 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 results in a forfeit.
 - d) More than one (1) violation in the season will lead to review by the Unified Sports Committee as to the path forward for the remainder of the season.
 - i) Games that are forfeits may be played, but schools must make it known that they are playing under forfeit.
 - e) If a team has reason to believe a violation of the spirit of the game has occurred the administrative head or their designee shall notify the opposing school or event sponsor, in the case of a tournament or meet, and the DIAA Executive Director in writing of the violation. Reporting school must provide evidence of the violation.



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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 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).
 - a)

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 travesty of the game. (i.e.: Creating plays to find loopholes in rules)