

UNIFIED BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Unified Sports Committee Members

Jon Buzby, Chair.....	Special Olympics Delaware
Andrew Layton	Vice Chair, Public Member, Coach, Woodbridge High School, Retired
Theresa Repole.....	Secretary, Coach, Newark Charter High School
Schaeffer Stark	Coach, William Penn High School
Gary Cimaglia.....	Special Olympics North America
Kevin Charles	Public Member, DIAA Executive Director, Retired
Layne Drexel	Official, IAABO 11, DIAA State Unified Basketball Rules Interpreter
Jerry Kobasa	Athletic Director, Retired
Pete Celeberti.....	Official, DFOA, DIAA State Unified Flag Football Rules Interpreter
Bob Beron.....	Athletic Director, Caesar Rodney High School
Dr. Matt Voltz.....	Medical Professional, Delaware Orthopedics Specialists
Brian Mattix.....	Administrator, Red Clay School District
Chris Muscara.....	Athletic Director, Appoquinimink High School
Nate Threatts.....	Special Olympics Delaware
Todd Fuhrmann.....	Athletic Director, Indian River High School

Specific Information

Item 1. Governing Rules

- A. The rules as stipulated in the DIAA/SODE Unified Basketball rules book and DIAA regulations.

Item 2. Tournament Field

- A. The 2025 SODE/DIAA Unified Basketball State Championship will include the top 16 teams according to the seeding index be an open tournament.
- B. Eligible Teams
 1. All teams must meet the criteria established by DIAA Regulation 1009 to be eligible for tournament consideration.
 2. The SODE/DIAA Unified Basketball number of regular season games will be established once the number of teams participating is finalized. All games must be completed by February 19, 2025.
 3. Any school which does not wish to be considered for the tournament must notify the Unified Sports Committee Chair by February 12, 2025, so as not to be considered for seeding. Once the Committee seeds the tournament any team that withdraws will be subject to DIAA disciplinary action and that tournament berth will not be filled.
 4. For the DIAA State Unified Basketball tournament, the regular season is defined as a school's first fifteen (15) regular season varsity basketball games and they must be completed by Wednesday, February 19, 2025. Competition against in-state and out-of-state school teams must be completed by Saturday, Wednesday, February 19, 2025
 5. A team must play a minimum of 7 games at the varsity level to be considered for the tournament. Forfeits will count toward satisfying this requirement.

Item 3. Tournament Seeding

- A. Team Report
 1. The last competition date for basketball is February 19, 2025. It is the school's responsibility to verify that all results listed on their team's website/sports page are accurate and complete by the last date of competition February 19, 2025.
 2. Only those opponents who have played a minimum of five (5) games at the varsity level will be included in a team's win/loss percentage record and team index. Forfeits will count toward satisfying this requirement.
- B. Index Calculation
 1. A school's seeding point index is determined by adding together the total number of points accumulated and then dividing them by the number of games played.
 2. Points are awarded for wins, ties, and losses as follows:
 - a. (2) points for a win
 - b. (1) points for a tie
 - c. (0) points for a loss
 - d. Bonus Points
 - i. (2) points for playing a team with .701 or higher winning percentage
 - ii. (1) points for playing a team with .501 - .700 winning percentage
- C. Tie Breaking for Index Seeding Procedures
 1. If two or more teams are tied for any seed, the following tie-breaking criteria will be used in the order listed. Once a team is removed from the tie, the tie-breaker criteria will be reapplied sequentially to the teams that are still tied.
 - a. Overall Record
 - b. Head-to-Head Competition
 - c. Record Against Common Opponents
 - d. If a tie still exists, the Committee will select the order by vote.

Item 4. Tournament Dates

- B. The 2025 SODE/DIAA Unified Basketball State Tournament will be held for each Section on the following dates:

Round	Date
Round 1	February 24
Quarterfinals	February 28
Semifinals	March 3
Championship	March 9

- C. The Committee along with the participating schools reserves the right to make changes due to weather or other circumstances that would prevent playing the games as originally scheduled.
- D. The Committee reserves the right to make any scheduling adjustments it deems appropriate
- E. The Committee will not accept requests for alternate dates due to a conflict with the SAT. It is incumbent on all schools to inform their players that registering to take the SAT on the weekend of the Championship Games will conflict with their participation in the championship game.

Item 5. Game Sites

- A. The first round, quarterfinal and semifinal round games will be played on the home court of the highest seeded teams (lowest number seed). If the gym and/or facilities of the higher seeded team are deemed unsuitable for tournament competition, the Committee will select an appropriate game site which could be the home court of the lower seeded team.
- B. The Unified Sports Committee reserves the right to select the site and determine the starting time for all tournament games.

Item 6. Starting Times

- A. The Unified Sports Committee and DIAA will work with participating schools to determine the game starting times throughout the tournament.
- B. Teams may arrive at the playing site one hour before the scheduled start of their game. Please do not arrive earlier.

Item 7. Tournament Program

At the discretion of the DIAA Executive Director, if DIAA prepares an official tournament program which contains team pictures, team rosters, tournament pairings and other related information, it may be sold at all tournament playing sites.

Item 8. Admission Policies

- A. Complimentary admission
 - 1. Participating schools will receive complimentary admission for all those members of the Official School Party listed as submitted by the Athletic Director to the DIAA office. The Official School Party cannot exceed twenty-two (22) people and is defined as players, coaches, managers, scorers/statisticians, trainer, and administrators. All members of the school party must be in the sixth grade or older. It is recommended that they be of high school age.
 - a. A maximum of fifteen (15) players in full uniform only will be admitted as part of the official school party.
 - b. All other school personnel must pay the regular admission fee if they wish to enter the contest. Spouses of administrators and coaches are similarly obligated. No additional complimentary tickets will be issued to schools.
 - c. One (1) bus driver per vehicle used for the Official School Party will be admitted free of charge.
 - d. At the discretion of the Committee, additional staff members may be granted complimentary passes based on individual participant circumstances such as instances where a one-one chaperone is required.
 - 2. A maximum of 23 cheerleaders in uniform and one adult sponsor will receive complimentary admission. Additional cheerleaders must purchase a ticket or make arrangements in advance to have their school billed for any admission in excess of 23 cheerleaders and one adult.
 - a. One (1) bus driver will be admitted free of charge if a separate vehicle was used for cheerleader transportation.
 - 3. Media representatives need an approved DIAA Media Pass to make a reservation for the Bob Carpenter Center. Refer to General Information Item 10.
 - a. Press table reservations at the Bob Carpenter Center must be arranged through the DIAA office. Contact Caitlin Finkley, DIAA Marketing and Communications specialist at Caitlin.finkley@doe.k12.de.us.
 - 4. Seating at the Bob Carpenter Center is reserved. To receive their designated seats the following groups must assemble at the rear entrance of the Bob Carpenter Center (team entrance) with their coach or adult supervisor and be admitted together as one group:
 - a. The Official School Party as defined in Item 8.A.
 - b. A maximum of 23 cheerleaders in uniform and one coach.
 - c. A maximum of 15 pep band members and one adult director.
- C. Paid Admission and Ticket Sales
 - 1. Student (grades K-12) and adult admission for all dates at the Bob Carpenter Center will be **\$12.00**.
 - 2. All tickets will be purchased through GoFan, DIAA's official ticketing partner, unless otherwise noted.

3. Tickets for DIAA state tournament events through the semi-finals can be found by visiting <https://gofan.co/app/school/DIAA>
4. Fans MUST have a smart phone or mobile device to show and redeem purchased tickets for entry into tournament events.
5. Fans should purchase tickets in advance of the tournament events by visiting the link above.
6. All tickets for events at the Bob Carpenter Center will be available through the University of Delaware's ticket vendor.
7. Children four (4) years and younger will be admitted without charge to all games. They must have a complimentary ticket for entry to the Bob Carpenter Center.
8. Ticket prices and fees are subject to change per approval by the DIAA Board of Directors.
9. No refunds will be given for tickets purchased but not used.

Item 9. Game Manager

- A. A member of the Unified Sports Committee will be appointed to serve as the Game Manager. He/She will serve as the liaison between the Committee, the host school and the participating schools. The Game Manager is responsible for ensuring compliance with the policies and procedures established by the Unified Sports Committee.
 1. In the event of a serious accident or injury to a coach, athlete, official, spectator, or game worker, the Game Manager will notify the injured party's athletic director and the DIAA Executive Director as soon as possible.
 2. In the event of a serious sportsmanship-related incident, the Game Manager will contact the DIAA Executive Director as soon as possible.
- B. A Committee member will be assigned to each of the teams participating in the games at the Bob Carpenter Center. He/she will be responsible for meeting the team when they arrive, escorting them to their locker room, and answering any questions they may have. He/she will review the pre-game activities and the post-game awards ceremony with the head coach.

Item 10. Responsibilities of Host School

- A. Member schools agree to host events for the Tournament.
- B. Each host school designates and supervises the individuals who serve as the Site Director and support personnel. The number of support and police personnel MUST be approved by DIAA's Executive Director prior to the start of the event.
- C. The Site Director's responsibilities include:
 1. Set up the gym, court and bench areas according to current NFHS specifications.
 2. Provide a secure locker room for the Game Officials that has a changing area and showering facilities. Safe passage for the officials to and from the locker area and the playing court shall also be insured. If possible, provide dressing room and bathroom facilities for the participating schools.
 3. Provide parking facilities for buses and spectators.
 4. If possible, provide seating arrangements for spectators.
 5. Contact the Game Manager three hours prior to game time if the site is not in appropriate condition.
 6. Be in attendance and work closely with the Game Manager.
 7. Clear with the Game Manager matters of policy or procedure.
 8. Provide an official scorer and timer unless a person is assigned by the Tournament Committee and supplied by the Officials' Association.
 9. Ensure that the complimentary admission policy for all schools is followed (Item 8).
 10. Establish a procedure for assisting spectators with disabilities and review the procedure with the appropriate personnel.
 11. Review the emergency action plan with the appropriate personnel.
 12. Any additional responsibilities as determined by the host school.
- D. The host school must consult with the DIAA office concerning security and police personnel.
 1. Any expenses concerning security and police personnel must be pre-approved by DIAA's Executive Director.
 2. Police will be paid the game fee or hourly rate customarily paid at the game locale. The bill should be sent to DIAA.
- F. Public Address System
 1. The host school will make every effort to provide a public address system and designate and supervise a responsible adult to serve as an announcer. Every effort should be made to have an announcer familiar with basketball.
 2. The public address system, if used, will be operated by a responsible/ adult representative of the host school.
 - a. Any announcements not directly related to the game/tournament or not of an emergency nature must be approved by the Game Manager or the DIAA Executive Director.
 - b. The public address announcer must be a responsible individual who will remain impartial at all times. He/she must never question or criticize the coaches or officials during the game. Game announcing is for factual information purposes only, 'play-by-play' announcing of the game is not allowed.
 - c. Introduce the players and coaches on each team beginning with the non-starters of the away team, then starters and coaches, and then the home team.

Item 11. Responsibility of Participating Schools

- A. Supervision
 - 1. An administrator or the athletic director from each of the participating schools must be present at all tournament games involving his/her team. This individual must make his/her presence known to the site director prior to the start of the game and indicate where he/she will be seated during the contest.
 - 2. The school administrator/AD in attendance is responsible for assisting with enforcement of good sportsmanship conduct as described in General Information Item 6.
 - 3. For games played at neutral sites, the school administrator/AD of the participating schools are jointly responsible for the protection and well-being of all spectators and officials in attendance.

Item 12. Officials

- A. DIAA recognized basketball official's associations will provide the officials for all tournament games.
 - 1. Officials are required each year to both attend the DIAA rules interpretation clinic and to pass the rules examination provided by the DIAA office for the sport(s) they officiate.
 - 2. Number of Games Requirement: The tournament committee requires that an official must work a minimum of three (3) DIAA sanctioned high school Unified Basketball games in order to be eligible to officiate a state tournament game.
- B. Assignments
 - 1. The tournament games will be divided amongst qualifying organizations based upon officials' eligibility.
 - 2. The Unified Sports Committee will assign three (3) officials for every game of the tournament.
- C. All officials will be paid according to the rates set by the SODE/DIAA Partnership with the Officials' Association as determined by the Unified Sports Committee.

Item 13. Uniforms and Bench Assignments

- A. Players from each team will wear the legal uniform approved by the Unified Sports Committee (Review DIAA/SODE Unified Basketball rules book).
- B. If a game is played at a neutral site, the higher seeded team will be designated as the home team on the scoreboard and will occupy the bench area assigned to them by the Committee. The lower seeded team will be designated as the visiting team on the scoreboard and occupy the bench area designated to them by the Committee.
- C. For the Championship Game, the team that is the highest seed (lowest seed number) will be designated as the home team and wear their "white uniforms". Bench assignments for the Championship Game are at the discretion of the Committee.

Item 14. Dressing Rooms and Facilities

The participating teams will be assigned dressing rooms upon their arrival at the playing site. The coaching staff is responsible for supervising the dressing room. Schools will be held accountable for any theft or damage.

Item 15. Contest Procedures, Equipment and Facilities

- A. The Committee has established the following procedures for all tournament games:
 - 1. Team warm-up time will begin 28 minutes before the scheduled starting time, no sooner.
 - 2. Team warm-up time is limited to 20 minutes immediately prior to pre-game activities.
 - 3. Team warm-ups end 8 minutes prior to the scheduled game starting time.
 - 4. The Officials Conference with Captains will take place at center court 8 minutes before the scheduled game starting time.
 - 5. Pre-game announcements, introductions and the national anthem will take place after the Officials Conference.
 - 6. Each team will be given a few minutes to warm up prior to the start of the second half. No non-team practice shooting will be allowed during half-time.
 - 7. Teams must provide their own basketballs for the pre-game warm-up at all sites including the Bob Carpenter Center.
- B. Practice Sessions: With the exception of the host school, no team will be allowed to practice at a tournament playing site. Violation of this rule will result in disciplinary action that may include disqualification from the tournament. **Host schools wishing to permit a light practice or shooting time prior to a tournament game must clear all playing courts two (2) hours before the game starting time.**
- C. Game Balls and Scorebooks
The Tournament Committee will provide a game ball and an official scorebook for each contest. Participating schools must provide scorebooks for their own scorers.
- D. Special Events
 - 1. No school will be permitted to conduct its own program of special events.
 - 2. Special events will be confined to the official pre-game activities and the awards ceremony after the championship game.
 - 3. The pre-game activities may include:
 - a. National Anthem: All players, coaches, game officials, and school personnel are expected to stand attentively during the presentation of the flag and the playing of the national anthem.
 - b. Introduction of the Chairperson of the DIAA Board of Directors or his/her representative.

- c. Introduction of the Chairperson of the Unified Sports Committee or his/her representative.
 - d. Introduction of the players and coaches of the participating teams.
 - e. Introduction of the Principal or Headmaster of the participating schools.
 - f. Other VIPs in attendance will be recognized by asking them to stand momentarily at their seats.
 - g. Only the individuals listed in b., c., d., and e. will be on the gymnasium floor during the special events. The game officials will be introduced at the appropriate time.
4. The Tournament Committee is authorized to modify the program of special events however it deems appropriate.
- E. Musical Entertainment
- 1. With the exception of the national anthem, the playing of recorded music is not permitted unless approved by the Executive Director or the Tournament Committee in advance.
 - 2. Pep bands will be permitted only at games played in the Bob Carpenter Center. They will be limited to 15 members and must be accompanied by an administratively approved director. Pep bands will be allowed to perform during the pre-game warm-up, between quarters, and at half-time but not during timeouts which are reserved for the cheerleaders.

Item 15. Awards

- A. The following awards will be presented:
 - 1. Team: A trophy and game ball will be awarded to the Champion and Runner-Up teams.
 - 2. Individual: Gold medals (15) will be presented to the champions. Silver medals (15) will be presented to the runners-up.
 - 3. No awards other than those authorized by the Committee will be presented at any time during the tournament.
- B. Crown Trophy of Glasgow DIAA Championships Scholar Athlete Academic Award
 - 1. Each team participating in the tournament will be eligible to nominate one player. A maximum of 16 players (one from each participating team) will be recognized based on the bracket. The award criteria as outlined in Item 15. B. 3. during the pre-game announcements.
 - 2. Nominations must be submitted through the AD Portal by Saturday, February 22, 2025.
 - 3. Selection criteria for the award is as follows:
 - a. Student-athlete must be at least a sophomore academically and athletically in the sport of basketball
 - b. Student-athlete must have been at the school for a least a year to receive the award
 - c. Student-athlete is an active member on the roster and eligible for the championship
 - d. Student-athlete only eligible to receive the academic award once during the sport championship
 - e. Student-athlete must have a 3.2 GPA and on the active team championship roster

Item 16. Player Bench Occupants and Bench Assignments

- A. During a game, the player bench may be occupied by the official school party is defined as players, coaches (approved by the local board or governing body), managers, scorers/statisticians, team medical personnel, and school administrators. **Schools in violation of this regulation will be assessed a \$50.00 fine and the excess individuals will be removed from the bench area. Repeat violations may result in the suspension of the head coach.**
- B. The “home team” will occupy the bench area of their choice for the first three rounds of the tournament. The “visiting team” will occupy the bench designated for them by the home team in the first three rounds of the tournament.
- C. For the championship, the home team will occupy the bench to the right of the official scorer as the team faces the playing floor. The visitors will occupy the bench to the left of the official scorer as the team faces the playing floor.

Item 17. Assignment of Baskets

The Tournament will follow the NFHS Rules for the assignment of baskets.

Item 18. Mercy Rule

The 35-point mercy rule will be used in the first and second round tournament games.

Item 19. Radio and Television Broadcast

- A. Broadcast privileges will be awarded according to the following criteria and procedures:
 - 1. The local (same county as participating school) radio station that regularly broadcasts the games of a potential playoff team may receive exclusive privileges to broadcast that team’s first-round game by submitting a written request and a \$100.00 fee.
 - 2. If no local radio station regularly broadcasts the games of a potential playoff team but a local station broadcasts a “game of the week”, that station may receive exclusive privileges to broadcast the aforementioned team’s first-round game by submitting a written request and a \$100.00 fee. If two local stations broadcast a “game of the week”, both stations may broadcast the aforementioned team’s first-round game provided the host school’s press box can accommodate both broadcast crews. If the host school’s press box cannot accommodate both crews, the DIAA Basketball Committee will determine which radio station will receive broadcast privileges.
 - 3. If no local radio station regularly broadcasts the games of a potential playoff team and no local station broadcasts a “game of the week”, the station in closest proximity to the aforementioned school may receive exclusive broadcast privileges by submitting a written request and a \$100.00 fee.

4. The written request and \$100.00 fee must be received in the DIAA office (Attn: DIAA Executive Director, 35 Commerce Way, Suite 1, Dover, DE 19904) by Tuesday, February 13, 2025. The \$100.00 fee will be refunded if the team whose first-round game the local radio station has expressed an interest in broadcasting does not qualify for the playoffs. If a local station that broadcasts a “game of the week” submits a written request and \$200.00 in fees to broadcast the first-round games of two potential playoff teams, \$100.00 will be refunded if those teams play each other.
 5. The same criteria and procedures that were used for the preliminary round games will be used for the championship games. However, the written request must be received by 12:00 noon on Monday, March 4, 2025 (fax to DIAA Executive Director, 302-739-1769). The \$250.00 broadcast fee may be submitted separately from the written request.
- B. Live telecasts of playoff games will not be permitted. All games must be telecast on a minimum 48-hour delayed basis. The telecast fees will be \$100 for a first and second round games, \$100.00 for the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds and \$250 for a championship game.
- C. All radio and television stations must indicate in their written requests that no commercials associated with the use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be aired.

Item 20. Official Scorer's Table

- A. The following priority list will determine seating at the official scorer's table:
1. Official timer, official scorer and public address announcer
 2. Alternate official when assigned (semifinal and final rounds).
 3. Assistant scorer from each participating team (if space permits both).
 4. Media representatives (if space permits).
 5. Committee members (Bob Carpenter Center only-space permitting)

Item 21. Cheerleaders

- A. Cheerleaders will cheer from an area designated by the Site Director.
- B. The University of Delaware has strict guidelines for cheering at the Bob Carpenter Center. These guidelines must be adhered to by all cheerleading squads. It is the responsibility of the cheerleading coach to review all guidelines and procedures with the site director.
- C. Cheerleaders must remain seated except during timeouts. Stunts will be allowed if performed in accordance with the current NFHS Spirit Rules Book. No mini-trampolines or basket tosses will be permitted.

Item 22. Removing Nets

- A. Only the winning team of the championship game will be permitted to cut down the nets under the supervision of Bob Carpenter Center personnel. Nets shall not be removed from the baskets after any other game of the tournament.

2025 SODE/ DIAA Unified Basketball State Tournament

Monday, February 24

Round 1

Friday, February 28

Quarterfinals

Monday, March 3

Semifinals

Saturday, March 8

Finals



Bracket subject to change based on number of teams in tournament.