



2020 Unified Cup School Basketball Championship

High school and college *intramural* teams that participate in Special Olympics New Jersey's Unified Champion Schools program are eligible to take part in the Unified Cup School Championships (formerly Shriver Cups). These tournaments bring together schools from around New Jersey to offer a state-level competition to *recreational* Unified Sports programs.

The 2020 Unified Cup School Basketball Championship is scheduled to be held at Princeton University on Sunday, April 5.

Schools may send ONE team to the tournament. See *Team Composition* and *Player Eligibility* below to make sure your team meets all the criteria.

Space is limited and teams will be entered into the tournament on a first-come-first-serve basis, so register as early as possible! The registration deadline is **Friday, March 13, 2020** or until all the spots are full – whichever comes first.

Registration Packet Contents

Please review all of the information provided in this packet carefully. The contents appear in order as follows:

1. Registration instructions and requirements (3 pages)
2. Unified Cup Basketball Rules and Regulations (1 page)
3. Unified Cup Competition Protocol (2 pages)
4. SONJ Health History & Release forms (4 pages - High School ONLY)

Registration Instructions

1. Go to <https://www.tfaforms.com/4752305> to access the registration form
2. Select school level
 - a. Colleges: select your division
3. Enter your school name. This will be your team name.
4. Enter your school colors (ex: blue & gold). We use this information to design your uniform shirts
5. Enter all head coach and assistant coach information
 - a. Once teams register, all information will be sent directly to the coaches
6. List each player's first and last name, role on the team (athlete or partner), and t-shirt size
 - a. Special Olympics New Jersey will provide a uniform shirt for all players as well as a coach shirt for all coaches

Team Composition

The maximum roster size for the Unified Cup will be 12 players and 3 coaches.

There should be approximately equal numbers of Special Olympics athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) listed on the roster.

Roster changes cannot be made after Monday, March 30th.

Important notes for High school teams:

In an effort to maximize participation, schools may NOT send the SAME team to both NJSIAA Unified basketball competitions as well as the Unified Cup. However, if a high school has enough Unified Basketball participation to field both a Competitive and Intramural team, then that school may send the Competitive team to the NJSIAA events and the intramural team to the Unified Cup.

Player Eligibility

Unified Basketball teams planning to enter the Unified Cup should adhere to the following player selection criteria. While the Unified Cup is for intramural/recreational teams, this tournament is still a competition and, for the safety of everyone involved, all players must meet minimum standards to participate which are outlined below:

- Players must be ambulatory (able to walk/run) and able to play independently
- Players must be able to catch, pass, and shoot the basketball independently
- Players must have a basic understanding of how to dribble
 - Some double dribbling is acceptable as long as the player does not gain a competitive advantage by doing so (up to officials' discretion)
 - Some moderate traveling is acceptable as long as the player does not gain a competitive advantage by doing so (up to officials' discretion)
- Players must have a basic understanding of general basketball game play rules
 - All fouls and out of bounds calls will be made

High School

- All team members must have a current and valid school physical (NJPPE) on file **in addition to** Special Olympics Release forms. *See attached SONJ Health History & Release forms*
 - Copies of a complete NJPPE form + SONJ Health History & Release forms (completed within the past year) should be sent in for every player
 - The **ONLY** exception is for SONJ athletes who already have a valid SONJ Participation Packet on file with Special Olympics New Jersey
- Varsity level basketball players are NOT permitted to be Unified partners
- All team members on the Unified Cup roster should have practiced together for a *minimum* of 6 weeks prior to the tournament

College

- All team members must have registered for their college's Unified Basketball program (online)
- All athletes must have a valid [Special Olympics New Jersey medical and release forms](#) completed and on file with SONJ at the start of the season
- Athletes on the Unified Cup roster should be between the ages of 16 and 39. Older athletes may serve in an assistant coach role for the Unified Cup, if desired

- All Unified partners must have completed the Unified partner application forms and taken the online [protective behaviors course](#) (each good for 3 years)
- Varsity level basketball players are NOT permitted to be Unified partners, however, they may serve as coaches
- All team members on the Unified Cup roster should have participated in *more than half* of the club's scheduled practice/game dates

All paperwork items for athletes and partners must be completed on or before Monday, March 30th. Anyone with missing paperwork requirements will NOT be permitted to participate. Failure to abide by the rules and regulations listed above may result in team disqualification from the Unified Cup Championship.

Coach Eligibility

Any person serving in a coaching role for the Unified Cup must complete the following on or before **Monday, March 30, 2020**:

- Class A Volunteer Form
- [Protective Behaviors online course](#)
- [Concussion Training](#)
- [NFHS Coaching Unified Sports course](#)
 - Must be completed by at least one coach on the team, preferably the head coach
 - Only needs to be completed once – valid indefinitely

All of the above requirements are free of charge and valid for 3 years from the date of completion, unless otherwise noted.

Scratch Fee

Registering your team for the Unified Cup Championship indicates a commitment to participate in the tournament. Therefore, any team that drops from the tournament after Sunday, March 17th will be subject to a \$100 scratch fee that will be deducted from your Unified Champion School grant funds.

Unified Cup Basketball questions should be directed to Jess Stevenson, Unified Sports Coordinator at Special Olympics New Jersey. Email: jns@sonj.org or phone: 609-896-8000 x286

2020 Unified Basketball Rules and Regulations

1. The Unified Cup tournament games will consist of two, 20-minute halves, running clock, with the exceptions listed below:
 - a. The clock stops ONLY on foul shots and timeouts.
 - b. During the last two minutes of the 4th quarter/second half, the clock stops on every whistle.
2. All teams must maintain a ratio of three (3) Special Olympics athletes to two (2) Unified partners on the floor at all times.
 - a. After a game begins and during competition, only the following lineup ratios are allowed: 3 athletes and 2 partners, 2 athletes and 2 partners, 2 athletes and 1 partner, 1 athlete and 1 partner. Failure to adhere to the required ratio results in a forfeit.
3. If overtime is necessary, the period is five minutes, running time.
 - a. During the first 4 minutes of overtime, the clock stops ONLY on foul shots and timeouts.
 - b. During the last minute of overtime, the clock stops on every whistle.
 - c. Each team receives one additional full timeout during the overtime period.
 - d. Timing rules listed above are in effect for multiple overtime periods if needed.
 - e. Time outs earned in previous overtime periods do not carry over in additional overtime period.
4. Teams are allotted five timeouts per game.
 - a. Two (2) 30-second time outs
 - b. Three (3) full (one minute) timeouts.
5. The bonus occurs in each half when a team picks up its 7th team foul.
 - a. The bonus will ALWAYS result in 2 free throws.
 - b. Team fouls are reset to zero at the beginning of the second half.
6. Expanded intentional foul definition: The foul shall also be ruled intentional if, while playing the ball, a player causes excessive contact with an opponent.
7. It is not a violation if a defensive player, who jumped from the front court, secures control of the ball while both feet are off the floor and he or she returns to the floor with one or both feet in the back court.
8. One team warning per game for delay of game if player interferes with the ball after a basket is scored.
 - a. A technical foul will be called and enforced thereafter.
9. No free throws will be taken for double technical fouls or simultaneous technical fouls by opponents.
 - a. Play resumes with an alternating possession throw-in at the division line.
10. No player in a marked lane space shall fake entrance into the lane to cause an opponent to enter early and commit a violation.
11. During a Free Throw all players must wait until the ball hits the rim before they can step in.
12. In a free-throw situation; there are no substitutions permitted until after the first free throw.
13. IAABO officials are used; therefore SONJ uses IAABO rules to govern basketball games.